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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM; ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Letter dated 2 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Okinawa Conference on Development, which the Government of Japan organized in Okinawa from 24 to 25 July 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 97 (a) and 99 (a) and (b).

(Signed) Hisashi OWADA
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Report of Okinawa Conference on Development, held at Okinawa, Japan, on 24 and 25 July 1997

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I. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Government of Japan organized the Okinawa Conference on Development from 24 to 25 July 1997 at the Okinawa Convention Centre, Okinawa, Japan. The Conference, which was attended by 56 participants, including permanent representatives of Member States to the United Nations and senior officials of organizations active in the area of bilateral and multilateral development assistance, was structured as a brain-storming session for the purpose of further developing and promoting greater understanding of the concept of a "new development strategy".

The call for a new development strategy has historical significance. The end of the cold war has led to a structural transformation in the way the issue of development is to be addressed by the international community. In this new environment, where development is no longer held hostage to ideological confrontation, it can now be pursued as a genuine problem of how to enhance the well-being of the people involved. As we move towards the twenty-first century, we are faced with a moment of challenge and opportunity at the same time. The effort to formulate a new development strategy is simply an attempt to establish a common framework for development based on global partnership through which challenges can be successfully met and opportunities seized. After years of negotiation, the General Assembly adopted the Agenda for Development, which was intended to outline the role of the United Nations in addressing development issues. Some ingredients of the strategy have been incorporated into the Agenda, but only in a fragmented fashion. In this sense, the formulation of a new development strategy based on global partnership is now all the more urgent and relevant than ever before.

One of the methodologies to be employed for this new strategy is a comprehensive approach, where not only such factors as financial inflow, including official development assistance, trade, market access and private investment, but also other factors, including socio-economic infrastructure, both in its aspects of hardware, such as telecommunications and transportation systems, and of software, such as human capacity-building, institution-building, and governance, are organically integrated. The other essential methodology is an individual approach, in which the new strategy is to be tailored to individual countries, taking into account the specific conditions and needs of those individual countries.

For the effective promotion of such a strategy, the setting of output-oriented targets in specific areas of development is particularly important. These targets will serve as yardsticks or benchmarks to measure progress achieved as a result of development efforts. The targets will also instil a sense of participation in developing countries and enhance their awareness of ownership and responsibility for their own development.

South-South cooperation is also essential. While this type of cooperation was in the past designed to strengthen solidarity among the countries of the South in their struggle against the North, such cooperation is now based on a sharing of experiences. It also includes a new modality of triangular cooperation involving the participation of countries in the donor community,

which opens a new dimension of cooperation between the North and the South. In this context, South-South cooperation can be one of the most promising tools for realizing the new framework for development.

Since the summit meeting of the seven major industrialized countries (G-7 summit), held at Tokyo in 1993, Japan has been taking a series of initiatives to promote the formulation of a new development strategy. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development, for example, applied the discussion of such a strategy to the issue of African development. In 1998, Japan intends to discuss in even greater depth the issue of African development, with a view to operationalizing the strategy in Africa by proposing concrete prescriptions. The preparatory meeting is to be held in November 1997.

The Okinawa Conference on Development is another in this series of initiatives. The concept of a new development strategy has already been embraced by the donor community, as can be observed through the adoption of the report entitled "Shaping the twenty-first century" by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in May 1996 and the economic communiqué at the G-7 summit in Lyon in June 1996. However, it is not yet true that the concept has achieved wide support. The principal objective of this Conference is to advance towards a more universal understanding and gain support, particularly among developing countries, for a new development strategy and to facilitate discussion on the content of such a strategy.

The Conference encouraged lively and fruitful discussions among participants, who formed groups with separate themes: Sub-Group I - promotion of a new development strategy in the United Nations; Sub-Group II - South-South cooperation; and Sub-Group III - application of a new development strategy at the field level. Sub-Group I discussed the ways to universalize this new strategy on a global basis (i.e., universalization) and how to put it into practice throughout the United Nations system (i.e., operationalization). Sub-Group II sought to deepen understanding of the potential of South-South cooperation and its promise for the future, as well as to explore ways to enhance such cooperation. Sub-Group III took up some of the initiatives that have already been undertaken at the field level to implement this strategy and examined what kinds of problems exist, as identified by the donor and recipient sides.

The discussions were summarized in the form of reports from the Sub-Groups, which were presented to the plenary. Based on those reports, the plenary adopted the Okinawa Declaration, which incorporates the views that enjoyed wide support among participants. The major points of agreement incorporated in the Declaration are the following:

(a) Consolidation of a new development strategy at the policy level and the role of the United Nations. The Conference found that such policy papers on development as the report of the OECD Development Assistance Committee and the Agenda for Development provide a basis for universalizing the concept of a new development strategy. Emphasis was placed on the importance of formulating long-term development strategies by individual developing countries based on sense of ownership of the development process. In addition to official

development assistance, private sector involvement in the development process through foreign direct investment, trade and other private economic activities was similarly found significant;

(b) Promotion of South-South cooperation in a new development strategy. South-South cooperation, particularly in the form of triangular cooperation, was confirmed as an effective tool in promoting a new development strategy. The Conference explored ways in which this type of cooperation could be further developed, including mobilization of private resources;

(c) Implementation of a new development strategy at the field level. The Conference agreed that the spirit of partnership constituted the basis for mobilizing efforts for the achievement of output-oriented targets. In this connection, the importance of monitoring the progress in achieving such targets was stressed. The Conference also confirmed the need for further private sector involvement at the field level, as well as for greater coordination among relevant parties involved at that level.

The results of the Conference suggest that efforts to advance the process of universalizing the concept of a new development strategy should be continued. The General Assembly and the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, to be held in 1998, could serve as valuable opportunities to realize such efforts.

It should also be noted that the Conference benefited from being located in Okinawa. With cooperation provided by the Okinawa Prefecture, the participants could learn from the development experience of the local economy, which enriched the discussion.

II. OKINAWA DECLARATION (ADOPTED ON 25 JULY 1997)

A. Introduction

1. The Okinawa Conference on Development was held on 24 and 25 July 1997. It was attended by 56 participants, including cabinet ministers, permanent representatives to the United Nations, senior government officials in charge of development issues, officials from international organizations and others, with 26 countries and 6 international organizations represented altogether. They all attended in their personal capacity.

2. The aim of the Conference was to universalize a new development strategy to establish a common framework for development based on global partnership, through which challenges can be successfully met and opportunities seized. The Conference specifically focused on: (a) consolidation of a new development strategy at the policy level; (b) promotion of South-South cooperation in a new development strategy; and (c) implementation of a new development strategy at the field level. The Conference also served as part of the preparatory process for the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, to be held in 1998.

3. The idea of formulating a new development strategy based on a true global partnership, leaving behind the ideological confrontation that characterized relations between the North and South, originated in 1993, when it was incorporated in the communiqué adopted at the G-7 summit in Tokyo. The Tokyo Declaration on African Development, adopted in October 1993, provided an opportunity to initiate a new approach towards a global partnership between developed and developing countries in the aftermath of the cold war.

4. Subsequently, the Tokyo Conference on Development Strategy, held in March 1996, provided another opportunity to discuss the need for a new development strategy consistent with this new global partnership. It was agreed that such a strategy should be based on each country's ownership of its development, have clear and realistic targets and be supported by the political will of both donor and recipient countries and by adequate resources. In May 1996, the OECD Development Assistance Committee adopted the new development strategy.

B. Consolidation of a new development strategy at the policy level and the role of the United Nations

1. While United Nations conferences have produced a number of documents on development, these documents should be translated into action. The need to consolidate a common ground should be stressed.

2. The recently concluded document on the Agenda for Development and the OECD Development Assistance Committee policy document on the new development strategy could serve as a basis for the consolidation of a new development strategy on a universal basis.

3. The formulation of a long-term development strategy by the developing countries based on the concept of ownership is of cardinal importance. In this connection, the role and responsibility of the Government, including the promotion of public and non-profit sector participation in the formulation of policy, are essential.

4. Official development assistance has continued to play a central role, especially in the field of social infrastructure, including capacity-building. At the same time, the role of the private sector, including foreign direct investment and trade, will be increasingly important in the implementation process of a new development strategy, although foreign direct investment cannot be a substitute for official development assistance.

5. Coordination among the key players engaged in the development efforts, including international agencies, is critical to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of development assistance.

C. Promotion of South-South cooperation in a new development strategy

1. South-South cooperation, especially with its new dimension of triangular cooperation, will be an important tool for a new development strategy. For this purpose, sustained political commitment and adequate allocation of resources, including the efficient use of existing resources, are essential.

2. Government continues to play the fundamental role in promoting South-South cooperation. In this connection, pursuing policies that create an enabling environment for private sector involvement in development is important.

3. Expanding the actors in South-South cooperation to include academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and regional and subregional organizations is essential. The participation of business leaders and entrepreneurs in South-South cooperation should be encouraged.

4. Especially appropriate for South-South cooperation are such areas as infrastructure, natural resources exploitation, human resources development, trade and investment, technology transfer, capacity-building and agriculture.

5. Establishing information dissemination systems, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, is important for the successful execution of South-South cooperation.

D. Implementation of a new development strategy at the field level

1. Since a development partnership to achieve manageable and achievable output-oriented goals is required, the need to monitor progress towards the goals is deemed essential. The statistical tools necessary to measure progress have to be refined further.

2. The private sector should be involved as an important partner at the field level. Governments of both developed and developing countries should seek ways to maintain the dialogue with, and encourage and facilitate greater participation by, the private sector, including non-governmental organizations.

3. Better coordination and implementation by the key players of the new development strategy engaged in development activities at the field level is called for.

E. Conclusion

1. The participants acknowledged that the Okinawa Conference made a significant contribution to the discussion on development, especially at the United Nations. They particularly noted that there were many areas of a new development strategy in which consensus had emerged, and agreed to develop further the understanding achieved so far.

2. The participants of the Conference paid tribute to the Governor and the people of the Okinawa Prefecture for their support and commitment to promoting international cooperation. They expressed their deep gratitude for the generous and warm hospitality extended to them and for the excellent facilities provided for the Conference.

3. Finally, participants of the Okinawa Conference expressed their appreciation to the Government of Japan for its continued efforts to promote a new development strategy for improved and more effective development cooperation.

III. REPORTS OF SUB-GROUPS

A. Sub-Group I: promotion of a new development strategy in the United Nations

(Chair: Mr. Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations)

1. Sub-Group I was chaired by Mr. Hisashi Owada, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations. The two lead discussants were Mr. Ian Kinniburgh, Director, Macroeconomics Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, United Nations, and Mr. John F. E. Ohiorhenuan, Acting Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme.

2. Mr. Kinniburgh emphasized the need for moving from words to action and examined the constituent elements of a new development strategy, such as various aspects of partnership and ownership.

3. Mr. Ohiorhenuan talked about three contradictions: (a) the need to take a consolidated approach to the proliferation of various initiatives against the idea of ownership; (b) rising expectations of the role of official development assistance against its declining trend; and (c) the need for coordination of activities of international organizations against their tendency towards independent actions.

4. Based on the arguments made by the lead discussants, the Chairman invited the Sub-Group to focus on the following four points: (a) how to translate words into action; (b) specifying the ingredients of a new development strategy and setting targets; (c) the role of official development assistance and the relationship between multilateral and bilateral assistance; and, possibly, (d) the issue of the coordination of the activities of various international organizations.

How to translate words into action

5. It was noted that while United Nations conferences had produced a number of initiatives on development strategies, there were no consolidated approaches for development. The need for a new development strategy based on a comprehensive approach combined with an individualized approach was therefore emphasized. In

this connection, the need to consolidate various United Nations efforts was stressed. It was argued that since there were many initiatives related to a new development strategy by international, regional and national organizations, there was a need to define the basic elements to be reflected in a new development strategy that could constitute common ground.

6. In taking a comprehensive approach, it was suggested that the role of the private sector should be duly incorporated into the activities in the area of development. Activities of regional organizations to implement such a comprehensive and individualized approach were considered to be effective in putting words into action.

7. On an action-oriented approach and the role of the United Nations, it was emphasized that the elements specified by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, together with the text of the Agenda for Development, could provide useful guidelines reflecting the results of the Tokyo Conference of 1996. It was acknowledged that the basic elements of a new development strategy should be further elaborated in concrete terms, taking into account assumptions and development targets among the parties involved in this dialogue.

8. It was also noted that the set of output-oriented targets and benchmarks, which is useful as a tool for a new development strategy, needs to be followed up by actions tailored to individual countries and regions through an individualized approach that takes into consideration their particular circumstances, while being based on a comprehensive approach at the global level. The United Nations could play a role in this process.

Specifying the ingredients of a new development strategy and setting targets

9. Participants agreed that the constituent elements, such as poverty reduction, promotion of primary education, gender equality, reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates (especially the mortality rate of children under five years of age), basic health care and environmental sustainability, as identified by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, should be universally adopted by relevant institutions. However, it was suggested that it might not be appropriate to set targets for non-quantifiable elements, which would be treated by benchmarks.

10. It was noted that, in addition to effective target-setting, enhancing monitoring capacity was also important. It was further suggested that importance be attached to human development and people-centred targets.

The role of official development assistance and the relationship between multilateral and bilateral assistance

11. On resource flows, the Sub-Group observed that, although the demand for official development assistance was increasing, there was a declining tendency of actual volume of official development assistance. It was emphasized that official development assistance still remained indispensable for capacity-building in developing countries, and that foreign direct investment could not be a substitute for official development assistance. It was also emphasized

that donor countries should make further efforts to increase official development assistance.

12. At the same time, the need for more efficient and effective utilization of available resources, such as those flowing from foreign direct investment, transnational corporations, trade and domestic savings, was stressed. While those resources have become increasingly important for development, the Sub-Group noted that official development assistance continued to be critical in the sub-Saharan African countries.

13. The need to explore the possibility of debt relief as a way to release domestic resources for development was pointed out. However, it was also pointed out that this problem was linked to the limited scope of available financial resources, and that the situation constituted a dilemma for international financial institutions and donor countries.

14. In this context, the possibility for innovative measures for funding should be explored, both domestically and externally.

The issue of the coordination of the activities of various international organizations

15. The coordination among key players in the donor community, especially among the international agencies engaged in the development activities, was thought to be critical for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of development assistance. This objective could be achieved through coherent sectoral strategies with common implementation and follow-up arrangements, and through an increased focus on enhancing national implementation capacity.

16. It was recommended that coordination among donors, international organizations and recipient countries be enhanced through a more effective mechanism of consultation among them for efficient and effective implementation of a new development strategy.

17. In this context, participants expected that recent initiatives by the Secretary-General to strengthen coordination among the relevant organizations, as contained in his report on United Nations reform, would be relevant in considering how to bring about more efficient and effective coordination based on the principles of ownership and partnership.

18. It was stressed that in order to achieve effective coordination at the international level, more effective coordination at the national level among various departments of the government was required. It was also argued that further coordination would be required in order to formulate effective policies. It was further suggested that the United Nations should act as the intellectual leader, especially in the area of norm-setting of development efforts in the international community.

B. Sub-Group II: South-South cooperation

(Chair: Mr. Asda Jayanama, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations)

1. The theme of Sub-Group II was South-South cooperation, an important tool for development in developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central Asia and other regions in the world. With the understanding that the scope of application of South-South cooperation is universal, participants acknowledged that South-South cooperation was identified at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development I as one of the main pillars of a new development strategy and that Asian experiences were relevant to African development. Against this background, and in order to make discussions more focused, Sub-Group II assessed the present status of South-South cooperation - whether expectations have been met - and considered how this new tool for development could be promoted further, particularly in Asian-African cooperation.

2. Sub-Group II noted that the concept of South-South cooperation itself was broadly encompassing, including bilateral, intraregional, interregional and multilateral cooperation schemes. As to the overall results of the South-South cooperation thus far, participants' evaluations were mixed in the sense that there had indeed been many achievements but that there still remained many constraints to overcome to strengthen further South-South cooperation.

3. Constraints identified by the participants included lack of information or knowledge about what is available for South-South cooperation; lack of adequate resources, both human and financial, or inefficient use of existing resources; lack of commitment by the political leadership; colonial hangover; linguistic and cultural barriers between certain groups of countries; ad hoc (non-systematic) approaches without follow-up mechanisms; inadequate awareness at the national level; and weak participation by the private sector.

4. Despite these constraints and obstacles, participants were of the view that South-South cooperation in the 1990s operated under a more favourable political and economic environment than that of the 1970s and 1980s, when South-South cooperation was first advocated. Accordingly, South-South cooperation can continue to be an important tool for furthering development among developing countries in the world, provided sustained political commitment exists and adequate resources, including the efficient use of existing resources, are available.

5. In this connection, participants noted that the second Asia-Africa Forum, held at Bangkok in June 1997, acknowledged significant advances made in Asian-African cooperation since the Tokyo International Conference on African Development I. Some of the notable features were the widening of the scope of Asian-African cooperation, particularly in the area of trade and investment promoted by private business entrepreneurs, and the increased number of cooperative programmes in technical assistance in the areas where Asia has the expertise. In this regard, participants expressed the need to call for greater financial and other support from donor countries to promote triangular cooperation.

6. Participants discussed ways of further expanding South-South cooperation and were of the view that Government continued to play the primordial role in promoting South-South cooperation. In this connection, the importance of maintaining policies that create an enabling environment for private sector development was particularly stressed. In addition, participants noted the importance of expanding the actors of South-South cooperation to include academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and regional and subregional organizations. The need was expressed to increase the interaction of business leaders and entrepreneurs in South-South cooperation. As to the appropriate areas for such cooperation, various concrete areas were mentioned such as infrastructure, natural resources exploration, human resources development, investment, technology transfer, training, capacity-building and agriculture. The need for establishing information dissemination systems along with monitoring and evaluation mechanisms was also emphasized.

7. Finally, Sub-Group II reaffirmed that South-South cooperation, with a favourable political and economic environment and embodying the concepts of ownership and partnership for development, should become an important component in the new development strategy for the twenty-first century, particularly with the backdrop of globalization.

C. Sub-Group III: application of a new development strategy at the field level

(Chair: Mr. Kazuo Asakai, Director General of the Multilateral Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

National development strategy

1. It was recognized that formulation of a long-term development strategy by the developing countries themselves is of cardinal importance. In this connection, the role and responsibility of the Governments of devel ping countries, including public participation in the formulation of policy, are essential.

2. Such efforts should be complemented with cooperation from the international community, extended through close and effective dialogue and consultation. Where necessary, the international community should contribute to the building of the developing countries' capacity to formulate and implement a development strategy.

3. Application of the above to specific situations needs to be further developed, drawing on the experience gained through preliminary implementation of a new development strategy.

Monitoring

4. The need for development partnership to achieve ambitious but realizable output-oriented goals was recognized and, in consequence, the need to monitor progress towards the goals was deemed essential.

5. The statistical tools necessary to measure progress, however, need to be refined further. For example, the international community, where necessary, should assist in building the capacity of the developing country side to collect data. Data collection by international organizations should not be duplicative and the ways in which they are presented should be harmonized.

Private sector participation

6. The private sector is an important partner in the development effort. Governments, both developed and developing, should seek ways to encourage and facilitate greater participation by the private sector in this regard.

7. Whilst specific measures need to be elaborated further on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specifics of the situation, arranging for a "business round table" or seeking private-sector participation in meetings of the type currently under way will be useful.

Coordination at the field level

8. Better coordination among donors, including coordination within United Nations agencies and coordination between United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, was called for. In this connection, the Secretary-General's recent proposal to enhance coordination was welcomed.

9. It was noted, at the same time, that coordination should be undertaken in a pragmatic way, making use of existing mechanisms where they are functioning well or encouraging their better functioning. In this context, it was also noted that, as shown in the cases of Tanzania and Ethiopia, efforts for coordination and for the implementation of the new development strategy at the local level have already been undertaken.

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[1] The present appendix is being issued as received in the languages of submission only.

OKINAWA CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT
JULY 24 - 25, 1997
OKINAWA, JAPAN

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Ethiopia	H.E. Dr. Mulatu Teshome Vice Minister Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation
Fiji	H.E. Mr. Poseci Waqalevu Bune Permanent Representative to the United Nations
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Ghana	H.E. Mr. Jacob Botwe Wilmot Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Guyana	H.E. Mr. Samuel Rudolph Insanally Permanent Representative to the United Nations
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	Mr. Wataru Nishigahiro Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations

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New Zealand	H.E. Mr. Michael John Powles Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Swaziland	Mr. Joel Musa Nhleko Counsellor Permanent Mission of Swaziland to the United Nations
Thailand	H.E. Mr. Asda Jayanama Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Uganda	H.E. Prof. Matia Mulumba Semakula Kiwanuka Permanent Representative to the United Nations
United Kingdom	Mr. David J. Fitton Counsellor (Political) Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy
U. R. of Tanzania	Mr. Matern Y. Lumbanga Chief Secretary, Head of Civil Service and Secretary to the Cabinet
	H.E. Mr. Daudi Ngelautwa Mwakawago Permanent Representative to the United Nations
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	Mr. Ian Colville Kinniburgh Director, Macroeconomics Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis
	Mr. Makha D. Sarr Director and Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

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	Mr. Masanori Yoshimoto Vice Governor
FASID	Dr. Kazuo Takahashi Director, International Development Research Institute
JICA	Mr. Takeshi Nakano Deputy Managing Director, Planning Department

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U. R. of Tanzania	Mr. J.N. Isaka Coordinator, Chief Secretary's Office
U. N.	Ms. Kimiko Uno Senior Economist, Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
UNIDO	Mr. Saburo Takizawa Chief Internal Audit, Office of the Director General
Okinawa Prefecture	Mr. Masaaki Aguni Director General Executive Office of the Governor
	Mr .Fumihiko Yamada Councilor Executive Office of the Governor

Okinawa Conference on Development
24-25 July 1997
Okinawa, Japan
Schedule and Annotated Agenda

24 July 1997

I. Schedule

Wednesday, 23 July

Arrival in Okinawa

Thursday, 24 July

09:00-11:00 Plenary

[Conference Hall in Okinawa Convention Center]

- Opening remarks by the Chair, H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada
  Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
- Message from H.E. Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto
  Prime Minister of Japan
- Greetings from Mr. Masahide Ota
  Governor of Okinawa Prefecture
- Keynote addresses
  Mr. Kazuo Ogura
  Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
  H.E. Mr. Achi Atsain
  Minister for Employment, Public Service and
  National Insurance, Cote d'Ivoire
  H.E. Mr. Matern Lumbanga
  Chief Secretary/Head of Civil Service and
  Secretary to the Cabinet, United Republic of Tanzania
  Prof. Adehayo Adedeji
  Former Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa

10:20-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-13:00 Discussion

13:00-14:30 Buffet Lunch

[Restaurant in Okinawa Convention Center]

14:30 Departure for Laguna Garden Hotel

15:00-18:30 Small Group Meetings

[Laguna Garden Hotel, 2nd fl.]

Group I: Promotion of a New Development Strategy in the United Nations

[Meikai Room, 2nd fl.]

Chair: H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada

Lead Discussant: Mr.Ian Kinniburgh
Director, Macroeconomics Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, UN
Mr. John Ohiorhenuan
Acting Deputy Director, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP

Group II: South-South Cooperation

[Heian Room, 2nd fl.]

Chair: H.E. Mr. Asda Jayanama
Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations

Lead Discussant: Mr. Seigi Hinata
Deputy Director-General,
Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
H.E. Mr. Percy Metsing Mangoaela
Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the United Nations

Group III: Application of a New Development Strategy at the Field Level

[Hagoromo Room, 2nd fl.]

Chair: Mr. Kazuo Asakai
Director-General,
Multilateral Cooperation Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan

Lead Discussant: Dr. Mulatu Teshome
Vice Minister,
Minister of Economic Development and Cooperation, Ethiopia
Mr. Euric Bobb
Chief, Office of the Presidency,
Inter-American Development Bank

19:00 Buffet Dinner

[Laguna Garden Hotel, Hagoromo Room, 2nd fl.]

Co-Hosts: H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada and Mr. Masahide Ota, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture

Dinner Speech by Mr. Masahide Ota, Governer of Okinawa

Friday, 25 July

09:00 Plenary

[Conference Hall, Okinawa Convention Center]

Chair: H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada

09:00-10:00

Report from Chairman of Small Group I (H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada)

Discussion

10:00-11:00

Report from Chairman of Small Group II (H.E. Mr.Asda Jayanama)

Discussion

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:30

Report from Chairman of Small Group III (Mr. Kazuo Asakai)

Discussion

12:30- Buffet Lunch

[Restaurant, Okinawa Convention Center]

14:00-16:00 Plenary

[Conference Hall. Okinawa Convention Center]

Discussion

Chair: H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada

16:00 Departure from the Center to the Hotel

16:30 Departure from the Hotel for Guided Tour

Options:

Shuri Castle (approx. 2 hrs.)

JICA Okinawa Center (approx. 1.5 hrs.)

17:00 Press Conference

[Conference Hall. Okinawa Convention Center]

Saturday, 26 July

Departure from Okinawa

II. Objectives

1. In March 1996, the Government of Japan convened the Tokyo Conference on Development Strategy, inviting many UN representatives and representatives of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to discuss the need to formulate a new development strategy based on a true global partnership, leaving behind the ideological confrontation that characterized relations between the East and West in the past. The idea of drawing up such a strategy originated in 1993, when it was incorporated in the communique adopted at the G7 Summit in Tokyo as well as in the concluding document adopted at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I) held the same year. For the purpose of following up the Tokyo Conference and as part of the preparations for the mid-term review of UN-NADAF, which took place in September 1996, Japan also hosted the High Level Seminar on African Development in Tokyo in August 1996, where the need for a new development strategy was reaffirmed in the context of African development.

2. The concept of a new development strategy has been clearly defined since the OECD's partnership strategy was adopted by the OECD Development Assistance Committee in May 1996. Among other elements, it addresses the concepts of ownership of development and partnership, output-oriented goals, and the need to take both a comprehensive and an individual approach. Also, at the Lyon Summit in June 1996, the notion of a new development strategy was endorsed, and since then, some developing countries have actually begun to incorporate it into their development plans. Thus, the notion of a new development strategy has become widely known and some initiatives to implement it have already been taken.

3. The promotion of a new development strategy is now at a new stage: we must consider how we can truly share this idea and find effective ways to implement it. This conference, which offers an opportunity to consider these questions, will be attended by representatives of donor and recipient countries, as well as international organizations, so that all perspectives may be represented.

4. The conference also is meant to serve as part of the preparatory process for the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II).

5. The conference is not intended to produce an agreed text, although at its conclusion, the chairman will formulate the *Okinawa Declaration on Development*, a summary of the deliberations that have taken place.

The purpose of the conference is brainstorming and we invite an open exchange of views. Participants are expected to express their own individual views on issues related to the conference, independent of the official positions of their respective countries or organizations.

III. Topics for discussion

Thursday, 24 July

1. Plenary

At the first plenary session, representatives of the Government of Japan, international organizations, and recipients will make keynote speeches offering their perspectives on the current status of efforts to implement a "new development strategy". In this way, participants will be able to review what each country that is implementing the strategy is doing and identify the problems it faces. After the break, the principal points made in each keynote speech will be summarized, and will be the subject of discussion.

2. Small Group Discussions

In the three small group meetings in the afternoon, which will be held simultaneously, the current status of efforts to promote a "new development strategy" will be analyzed and ways to intensify those efforts and implement them more efficiently will be explored. The specific subjects to be discussed in the groups are as follows:

Group I: Promotion of a New Development Strategy under the United Nations

Although there is general consensus among DAC members on the basic elements to be included in a new development strategy, they are not yet widely enough understood by developing countries and accordingly have not attracted the wholehearted support of the member states of the United Nations. A discussion is needed in order to arrive at a consensus. Obstacles to its acceptance by developed and developing countries must then be identified and ways found to overcome them. Bearing these objectives in mind, this small group will discuss the following for example.

- The elements to be included in a "new development strategy" having been presented in various forums, we are now at a stage where we should further elaborate the concept so that it can be universally accepted and implemented. It is necessary for us to identify on which elements there is a consensus, which it will be possible to implement, and how we can do so. What kind of mechanism do we need to implement the strategy?

- In pursuing a "new development strategy", it is appropriate to have clear development targets to enable us to measure the progress we make. Is it possible at the UN to reaffirm certain development goals and targets with a view to ensuring that developing and developed countries are truly working in concert?

- In order to promote partnership between donors, recipients, and international organizations, it would be advisable to have suggested areas in which each has primary responsibility, as this would enhance the effectiveness of their efforts. Can agreement on such a division of labor be reached at the UN? If not, what are the obstacles?

Group II: South-South Cooperation

It is increasingly acknowledged that South-South cooperation must be one of the main pillars of a "new development strategy", and in particular, the importance of utilizing Asian experiences for African development was emphasized at the 1993 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD I). Following TICAD I, a framework for such cooperation was adopted at the first Asia-Africa Forum, held in 1994 in Bandung, and as a follow-up, the Second Asia-Africa Forum was held in June 1997 in Bangkok. In this small-group meeting, there will be a brief presentation on the discussion that took place in the Second Asia-Africa Forum on the progress made in implementing the Tokyo Declaration and the Bandung Framework, which centered on three subjects: capacity building, sustainable agricultural development and food security, and private sector development.

Based on the report of the Asia-Africa Forum in Bangkok, this small group will consider ways to deepen and broaden South-South cooperation. Discussion should focus on the question of how to broaden participation in South-South cooperation, and whether, as has been suggested, it is not only government but also the private sector and NGOs that have a role to play in this area.

Group III: Application of a New Development Strategy at the Field Level

In some countries and regions an attempt to put a "new development strategy" into concrete action has already been initiated. At this small group meeting, these initiatives will be presented by those who have been working at the field level, and the recipient side will then present the problems and difficulties it feels have hindered implementation. Based on the presentations, difficulties in implementing the new strategy at the field level will be identified and ways of resolving them explored. The group will discuss such topics as the following:

- How can coordination be enhanced? In implementing the new strategy, coordination among the donors at the field level is essential. Have the efforts of donors, international organizations, and recipient countries been adequately integrated?

- What problems have been encountered in achieving development targets? Are the goals set by recipient countries output-oriented, and are they shared by donor countries and international

organizations? How and to what extent were these targets achieved? If they have not been fully achieved, why not? Are the efforts to achieve these goals effectively monitored?

- Although official development aid will remain one of the main resources for development, it is crucial to involve the private sector. How and in which areas can this be done at the field level?

- What other problems are there at the field level?

Friday, 25 July

3. The second plenary will convene in the morning of the second day to receive the reports of the three small group chairpersons, and engage in a discussion of points each group has raised, and consider what the next steps should be.

In the afternoon plenary session, the Conference will conclude with a discussion on the direction of the further efforts to implement a "new development strategy", bearing in mind the problems pointed out at the preceding sessions. At the end of the session, the *Okinawa Declaration on Development* will be introduced by the chairman.

4. Announcement of the *Okinawa Declaration on Development*

There will be a press conference after the conference and the *Okinawa Declaration on Development* will be announced by Ambassador Owada. This declaration is not an agreed text but rather the chairman's summary of the discussions that have taken place.

Opening Remarks by H.E. Mr. Hisashi Owada

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
and Chairman of the Okinawa Conference on Development

Okinawa Conference on Development

24 July 1997
Okinawa, Japan

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Distinguished Representative of the Okinawa Prefecture,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to stand here today to declare the opening of the Okinawa Conference on Development. I sincerely appreciate that many of you have travelled a great distance to this tropical island of Japan, Okinawa, to discuss global development strategy, to which my Government attaches great importance. As the Chairman of the Conference, I should like to extend my sincere gratitude to the people and authorities of the Okinawa Prefecture for their cooperation in organizing this Conference and their warm hospitality. I believe the fact that this Conference is taking place in Okinawa, which was reverted from the U.S. administration to Japan only in 1972, is significant in that Okinawa, itself in the process of further development, can also contribute to the conference by sharing its own development experiences. Indeed, through their self-reliant efforts, the people of this prefecture have made tremendous strides toward their prosperity.

Distinguished Participants,

Allow me first to take a few moments to explain the background of this Conference.

The end of the Cold War has led to a structural transformation of the way in which the issue of development is to be addressed by the international community. In the atmosphere of confrontation that was one of the features of the Cold War, the problem of development was held hostage to the ideological confrontation between the East and the West and the purpose of

development became distorted. In the new environment that has subsequently materialized in the post-Cold War period, fortunately, the cause of development can now be pursued as a genuine problem of how to enhance the well-being of people involved. It is against this background that at the G-7 Summit in Tokyo in 1993, Japan took the initiative for a "new development strategy."

As we move towards the twenty-first century, we are faced with a moment of challenge and opportunity at the same time. It is a moment of challenge in the sense that if the present situation is left unattended, the growing disparity between the poverty of the developing countries and the wealth of the rest of the world will be a major cause for world-wide social disorder in the next century. It is a moment of opportunity in the sense that if the issue of development is addressed properly, we will succeed not only in enhancing the welfare of the developing countries but also in benefiting the world as a whole through integrating the entire developing world fully into the world economy.

The effort to formulate a "new development strategy" is nothing else than an effort to establish a common framework for development based on global partnership through which challenges can be successfully met and opportunities seized. Although the individual elements of this approach may not all be new, they have never been integrated into an organic whole in the form of a comprehensive strategy. And this, I submit, is precisely what needs to be done. Last month, after years of negotiations among Member States, UN General Assembly adopted a lengthy text called "Agenda for Development." This exercise was intended to outline in broad terms the role of the UN in addressing the issue of development, and was meant to be linked to the initiative for a "new development strategy." Some ingredients of the strategy have been incorporated into the Agenda, but only in a fragmented fashion. In this sense, the formulation of a new development strategy based on global partnership is now all the more urgent and relevant than ever before.

Distinguished Participants,

The concept of a new strategy for development is as yet in a sense a common noun. It has to be further elaborated and refined through continuous dialogue among various partners for development. To some people, the policy statement adopted at the OECD Ministerial Meeting and endorsed at the Lyon Summit last year is itself the "new development strategy." To others, what has been attained in the "Agenda for Development" is synonymous with the "new development strategy." It is my belief that a "new development strategy" that we are seeking should mean more than either of those. It should be primarily understood as a strategy accpted on a global basis to create a new comprehensive framework for cooperation among all the key players engaged in development efforts. One of the methodologies to be employed for this new strategy is "a comprehensive approach", where not only such factors as the financial inflow like official development assistance (ODA), trade,

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market access and private investment, but also other factors indispensable for development like the development of socio-economic infrastructure, both in its hardware and software aspects, are to be integrated in an organic way. The development of socio-economic infrastructure should cover in its hardware aspects, such areas as telecommunication and transportation systems, and in its software aspect, it should include human capacity building through education and basic health, as well as institutional building and good governance. The other specific methodology for the strategy, in addition to this "comprehensive approach", is "an individualized approach", in which the new strategy is to be applied to individual countries in a tailored manner, taking into account specific conditions and needs of those individual countries.

As for the tools to be employed for promoting this new strategy several new tools are particularly important. First to come is the establishment of output-oriented targets in specific areas of development. These targets will serve as yardsticks or benchmarks to measure progress achieved in the result of development efforts, and these can be an effective incentive for mobilizing efforts to implement the strategy both on the donor side and on the recipient side. These targets will inspire hope and instill sense of participation in developing countries, and enhance their awareness of ownership and responsibility for their own development. Such targets will also serve to attract public attention of the people in the donor community to the development issues, and enhance their sense of satisfaction at what has been achieved by their participation in the process. The concrete targets could be set, for example, for the level of economic well-being measured by GDP per capita, the reduction in ratio of people living in extreme poverty; and, in the area of social development, the promotion in ratio of universal primary education, and the reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates.

South-South cooperation is another essential tool for such new strategy. South-South cooperation, and in particular cooperation between Asia and Africa, is today a qualitatively different tool from what it was in the 1970s and 1980s. In those days, its primary purpose was to strengthen the "solidarity" among the counties of the South in its struggle against the North. Thus, at the High Level Conference on Economic Cooperation among Developing countries held in Caracas in 1981 it was agreed that "this is the appropriate moment to renew, accelerate and strengthen cooperative efforts and solidarity among developing countries, based on mutual interest and a more rational use of available resources." This situation changed drastically when the Cold War finally came to an end. Today, Asia and Africa are engaging in South-South cooperation in the spirit of "sharing the experiences," and particularly in the new modality of triangular cooperation involving the participation of countries in the donor community, which opens a new dimension of cooperation between the North and the South. In this context, it can be one of the most promising tools for

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realizing the new framework for development in a concrete form. Through South-South cooperation, developing countries can benefit from sharing useful experiences, particularly in a way tailored to the specific needs of the countries concerned. Needless to say, ownership of the development process by each developing country is of crucial importance for its success, while the participation of the donor community in this process through "triangular cooperation" will contribute to the consolidation of the global partnership.

Distinguished Participants,

Japan has been taking a series of initiatives to promote the formulation of such a strategy for several years. As a follow-up to the G7 Tokyo Summit, we in Japan organized the Tokyo Conference on African Development (TICAD). Through deliberations based in large part on the development experiences of Southeast Asian countries on how best to pursue our common commitment to the development of Africa, TICAD introduced a critical element in African development.

More recently, in March 1996, in an effort to promote understanding of a global strategy, Japan convened the Tokyo Conference on Development Strategy, where the discussion made much progress in its consideration of the actual ingredients of such strategy. The High Level Seminar on African Development was held the following summer to examine how to formulate and apply such strategy in the context of African Development. The call for the operationalization became the leitmotif of the discussion. In 1998, Japan intends to host the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II) to discuss in even greater depth the issue of African development, with a view to operationalizing the strategy in Africa by proposing concrete prescriptions. This Okinawa Conference on Development has been organized in the context of this continuing process of forging the concept of a "new development strategy." It will also serve as a critical part of preparatory process for the TICAD II of next year.

Distinguished Participants,

Present Conference will focus on the following three themes: namely, (1) the promotion of a "new development strategy" under the United Nations, (2) the implementation of South-South cooperation, and (3) the application of a "new development strategy" at the field level.

Under the first theme, i.e. promotion of a "new development strategy" under the United Nations, we will discuss the problem of how to universalize this new strategy on a global basis and

to put it to practice throughout the U.N. system. Although there is a growing consensus on the need and the contents of this strategy on a global basis, what has so far been achieved is the formulation of a consensus on the strategy within the donor community through OECD and G7. However, in order for this strategy to be truly viable, it must be fostered to provide a global framework for development through its universalization and operationalization in the whole United Nations system. In order to achieve this we shall have to do a lot more work for the consolidation of the strategy and for the coordination within the United Nations system for putting it into operation. Obstacles to the formulation of such a consensus have to be identified and ways to be found to overcome them.

Under the theme South-South cooperation, which is increasingly acknowledged as one of the main pillars of a "new development strategy," we will try to deepen our understanding on the potentials that it promises for our future and to explore ways to deepen and broaden South-South cooperation. In this connection, the report of the Second Asia-Africa Forum, which was held in June 1997 in Bangkok will serve as an important basis for discussion. Discussion could focus on how to broaden the scope of South-South cooperation in terms both of the participants and of the areas to be covered. It would be useful in that context to examine to what extent and how not only the governments but also the private sector and NGOs can play a role in this area.

Under the third theme, application of a "new development strategy" at the field level, we will take up some of the initiatives that have already been undertaken at the field level to implement this strategy, and examine what kind of problems there are, as identified by the donor and recipient sides. This exercise, hopefully, will enable as to identify the difficulties we will have to envisage in implementing the strategy through comprehensive and individualized approaches at the field level, to sharpen our tools for resolving these difficulties and to explore how to solve them at the stage of implementation.

The conference is intended to be primarily a brainstorming session; it is not the intention of the organizers of this Conference to arrive at agreement through negotiations. I hope, however, in my capacity as Chairman, to be able to formulate some conclusions summarizing the deliberations that will have taken place, as a milestone for our further progress for the future. Participants are expected to express their own individual views on issues related to the themes, independent of the official positions of their respective countries or organizations. It is my earnest hope as Chairman of this Conference that in presiding over the sessions I can stimulate free, constructive and fruitful discussions, so that the present conference may contribute to the creation of a universal framework for our common strategy for development toward the twenty-first century.

Okinawa Conference on Development
Message of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto

24 June 1997
Okinawa Convention Center
Okinawa, Japan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend a most sincere welcome to all of you who have traveled to Japan for the purpose of attending the Okinawa Conference on Development.

I consider it highly significant that a conference devoted to the issue of development, one of the most important issues that today's international community must confront, is being convened here in Okinawa. It is hoped that this conference will also benefit Okinawa, which aims to become an international urban center.

The theme of this conference is a new development strategy based on global partnership, that is developed countries and developing countries working together to tackle development problems. This is an approach that Japan has been promoting ever since the 1993 G7 Summit in Tokyo. The issue of development was also taken up at the recent Denver Summit, where I emphasized the importance of extending support for capacity-building and institution-building in developing countries. I also advocated the promotion of inter-regional cooperation and stressed the importance of South-South cooperation. It is the policy of the Government of Japan to work with the relevant organizations of the United Nations to promote such cooperation. This conference offers an opportunity to discuss further the idea of the new development strategy in the context of the United Nations and to consider how it might be implemented.

A mere 25 years have passed since Okinawa was restored to Japan. Over this period, the people of Okinawa have actively pressed ahead in promoting and developing their prefecture in order to redress disparities with the rest of the country and to achieve progress through their self-reliant efforts. I firmly believe that the Okinawa experience can serve as a valuable source of guidance as we ponder the new development strategy for developing countries.

I would like to close by expressing the hope that the discussions at this conference are fruitful, that they will be conducted in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation, and that the *Okinawa Declaration on Development* to be announced at the conclusion of the conference will help to advance future discussions on development.

Keynote Address by Mr. Kazuo Ogura
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
Okinawa Conference on Development

24 July 1997

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the meeting which took place in Tokyo last year on the new development strategy, I tried to share with the participants the new development strategy based on the concept of partnership between donors and recipients. Since then, I am happy to note that this new concept has become widely supported and shared not only by the donor community but also by many developing countries. With such a trend in mind, I venture to say that we have reached the second stage; this being the stage where we must put this notion into implementation or concrete action. Against this backdrop, at the recent Denver Summit in Colorado, USA, in which I participated as personal representative of Prime Minister Hashimoto, Japan and other members of the G7 reaffirmed their commitment to the new global partnership and we made a number of initiatives and suggestions. Today I would like to explain to you the salient features of those suggestions and our thoughts behind those initiatives.

The notion of global partnership can, in my view, be divided into three parts: first, partnership between donors and recipients, second, partnership among developing countries, and third, partnership with international organizations.

First, as regards the partnership between donors and recipients, one of the most concrete ways of deepening such partnership is to agree on some specific targets for development, such as the infant mortality rate, female school attendance ratio or access to clean water. In the course of the past several months we have chosen six countries, one in Asia, one in South America and four in Africa, where such target settings and monitoring should be carried out jointly by Japan and the recipient nations. If we try to apply such strategies to other countries or areas particularly in Sub-Sahara Africa, we may have to consolidate a new approach, namely, a sectoral approach. By clearly setting priority sectors, such as energy or health care or transportation, we can establish more easily and effectively some joint socio-economic targets, both quantitative and qualitative,

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which can be attained through a new partnership. Wider application of target setting will also require effective capacity building for implementation and monitoring of targets. How shall we be able to jointly carry out this important task of capacity building? This question can be a major subject for discussion in the process of preparation for the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development scheduled to be held in Japan in autumn 1998.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On capacity building, I personally think there are at least two tasks which we must tackle: firstly to build capacity for statistical data collection or compilation; and secondly, to foster institutional capacity for economic planning. (In this regard we have to study further how we will be able to give incentives to those actual or potential actors - namely officials or experts in developing countries. We must keep in mind that some intrusive partners in economic policy making may actually erode local capacity building instead of promoting it.)

As regards the second part of my presentation, which is the partnership between developing countries, I am of the view that South-South cooperation is one of the best ways of promoting such partnership. The Japanese government, together with relevant international agencies, organized last month in Bangkok the Second Asia-Africa Forum. This Forum was intended to review and explore ways and means of promoting Asia-Africa dialogue and cooperation, particularly South-South cooperation.

There are, in my view, three merits in South-South cooperation. One merit is to heighten international political consciousness for fostering new donors. To urge South-South cooperation implies that we encourage the expansion of the donor community where we can now expect more participation from the newly emerging economies or new donors.

The second merit of South-South cooperation is related to triangular cooperation. Some emerging countries, although they are willing to share their recent experiences and expertise with other developing countries, may find themselves unable to do so due to the lack of financial resources or physical facilities. In such cases, traditional donors, such as Japan, could fill the gap by providing the necessary facilities.

The third merit of South-South cooperation will be its impact on regional cooperation. In Africa, where national boundaries often conflict with cultural, economic or ethnic boundaries, regional cooperation will have a particular significance. If the international community can help

develop such regional cooperation, we should not spare our efforts to assist such moves. Having made these remarks on South-South cooperation, I would like to make a personal suggestion to construct an international network of the various initiatives on South-South cooperation which have so far been launched internationally.

As regards the third part of my presentation, which is the partnership among international organizations and member countries, my government stressed, at the previous G7 Summit in Lyon, France, the importance of coordination among relevant international organizations in the field of human resource building. We made this suggestion, because we thought that by improving coordination among international institutions, for example, between UN agencies and Bretton Woods institutions, these agencies will be able to promote more effectively the partnership with member countries in human resource development. In this sphere, efforts are now under way by the task force in the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) of the UN. We hope that such efforts will be intensified.

In addition, effective partnership between international organizations and member countries can be promoted, especially, in the field of health activities, notably our efforts to prevent infectious diseases, or to promote clean water supply, or to resolve children's health problems such as iodine deficiency. More coordinated networking of information and responsive measures can be carried out jointly by WHO and its member countries. We intend either to convene an experts' meeting on such matters, or to send a team of experts to several countries, to identify and explore effective modalities for intensifying international cooperation in these areas. (In this regard we should not lose sight of the important roles to be played by NGOs.)

Having outlined my thoughts on the three dimensions of the new development strategy, today I would like to add an a further dimension to our concept of partnership, which is partnership with the private sector. What I want to emphasize is the importance of partnership between the government and the private sector. Indeed, Africa was very much a subject of discussion in this regard in the process of preparation for the Denver Summit. Some G7 members stressed the importance of promoting trade in the private sector and encouraging private investment in African countries. Some people were inclined to stress that official assistance should be linked to the degree of policy efforts for realizing a market economy and good governance. It is in fact encouraging that we have begun to witness healthy development of trade and investment in several African countries in the past few years. However, if we take an overview of the current situation in Sub-Sahara Africa in general, I feel that there is not yet a solid foundation to attract massive foreign investment or to take full advantage of the improved

market access to developed countries. The reason may be threefold. First, political stability and internal conflict resolution are yet to be realized in some areas. Secondly, there is not a sufficient basis for labor intensive manufacturing industries, in contrast to traditional capital intensive industries mainly intended for natural resource development. Third, there are problems of socio-economic infrastructure.

In order to fill the gap of the first category, namely the political gap, we have to encourage the work underway in the U.N. or in the regional framework for conflict resolution and promotion of good governance. In particular, we may have to address ourselves more effectively to the problems of non-productive expenditure. On the second and third type of gap, we have to promote further partnership between governments, international institutions and the private sector. As a concrete action, Japan has proposed that international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank, should conduct research and review how international financial institutions and governments can help investment by the private sector in economic infrastructure, such as roads, harbors and electric power stations. We look forward to their reports at the Hong Kong World Bank/IMF meeting in September.

In order to foster partnership of any kind, including the three or four dimensions of partnership I have just outlined, I think there exist three essential conditions. First, it requires time, since only time can deepen and widen partnership. Second, it requires determination and commitment on both sides of the partnership. Without such commitment, the partnership will remain fragile even if good intentions are present. And last but not least, it requires global support; if the support is limited, the partnership will also be limited. With these factors in mind, I hope that we will be able to more effectively carry out our joint task of implementing the new strategy for development.

Okinawa, which has undergone unique experiences of economic and regional development, is, I believe, a very appropriate place for sharing ideas and expertise on the new global partnership.

INTERVENTION DE S. E. LE PROFESSEUR ATSAIN ACHI, MINISTRE DE L'EMPLOI, DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE ET DE LA PRÉVOYANCE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DE CÔTE D'IVOIRE

La Conférence sur le développement, 24-25 juillet 1997, Okinawa (Japon)

S. E. M. le Président de la Conférence,
Ambassadeur Hisashi Owada,
Monsieur le Vice-Gouverneur d'Okinawa,
Messieurs les Vice-Ministres,
Excellences Mmes et MM. les Ambassadeurs,
Honorables participants,

Je voudrais, au nom de S. E. M. Henri Konan Bedie, Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, et de son gouvernement remercier le Gouvernement japonais de l'insigne honneur fait à mon pays en invitant son gouvernement à prendre part à cette conférence d'Okinawa sur le développement de l'Afrique.

Cette conférence, qui prépare la TICAD, se tient à quelque 30 mois avant le troisième millénaire, qui sera marqué par un bouleversement des relations économiques entre les nations à cause de l'éclatement des frontières économiques et par l'accentuation de la libéralisation des échanges.

La globalisation de l'économie mondiale suscite, en effet, beaucoup d'espoir, mais elle suscite aussi beaucoup d'inquiétudes, et c'est à juste titre qu'il apparaît impérieux de se poser la question de savoir si l'Afrique se prépare résolument à y entrer avec ses atouts.

La globalisation de l'économie mondiale suscite beaucoup d'espoir parce qu'elle est créditée déjà de croissance positive dans la quasi-totalité des pays du monde. Les facteurs clefs en sont :

- Les échanges commerciaux qui permettent l'insertion sur le marché mondial;
- L'évolution de la démographie qui améliore le niveau des revenus;
- Le niveau de formation et d'éducation qui conditionne l'amélioration de la productivité dans les entreprises;
- L'investissement financier et industriel transnational qui développe les entreprises;
- La stabilité politique qui détermine tous les autres facteurs.

L'Afrique ne peut pas ne pas tirer profit de ces développements positifs. En effet, au cours des deux dernières années, marquées par des taux de croissance mondiale de l'ordre de 3 %, le produit intérieur brut réel de l'Afrique a progressé de 4,8 %. C'est-à-dire que pendant deux années consécutives, le taux de croissance économique de l'Afrique a été supérieur au taux d'accroissement démographique, ce qui signifie que le revenu par habitant a augmenté en Afrique depuis deux ans.

Le nombre de pays qui connaissent la reprise économique est plus élevé que par le passé. Environ 40 pays africains ont enregistré des taux de croissance positifs de leur produit intérieur brut et, dans la moitié de ces pays, ce taux a dépassé le niveau de 5 %. Dans les groupements économiques régionaux, les taux de croissance globaux ont été supérieurs à 4 %. Selon les partenaires multilatéraux de l'Afrique, cette tendance devrait se poursuivre en 1997 et à moyen terme.

Ces résultats encourageants tiennent en partie aux progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre des réformes de politique économique :

- Les déficits budgétaires globaux ont baissé;
- L'inflation accumulée a fléchi;
- Les réformes sectorielles se sont traduites par des meilleurs résultats dans l'agriculture, l'industrie manufacturière et les exportations.

Pour maintenir ses performances et tirer encore profit de la globalisation de l'économie mondiale et de la libéralisation des échanges commerciaux, les pays africains doivent poursuivre des politiques de nature à favoriser :

- La redynamisation de l'investissement privé intérieur et le flux de l'investissement direct étranger;
- La promotion de la privatisation et de la participation du secteur privé au développement de l'infrastructure;
- Le renforcement de la coopération et de l'intégration régionales;
- Le développement des institutions;
- Le développement des capacités;
- La promotion de la démocratie;
- Le renforcement de l'administration publique.

Le volume de la dette extérieure demeure encore un obstacle à l'accélération de la croissance économique en Afrique. En effet, la reconstitution de toutes les infrastructures économiques et sociales dans les pays de l'Afrique ainsi que leur amélioration constante et continue exige de ceux-ci des taux de croissance de l'ordre de 7 à 8 % par an sur une période d'au moins 10 ans. La réalisation de ces taux se trouve contrariée par le volume de la dette extérieure de l'Afrique évaluée à 320 milliards de dollars en 1996 contre 314 milliards en 1995.

La globalisation de l'économie mondiale, suscite, par ailleurs, beaucoup d'inquiétudes et d'anxiété en Afrique.

À quel prix social les taux de croissance positifs vont-ils se réaliser dans le monde?

Le Sommet sur l'emploi qui a permis à l'Union européenne de sauver les négociations de Maastricht sur la convergence budgétaire n'est-il pas un signe avant-coureur des anticipations négatives de la globalisation de l'économie mondiale?

Le modèle social suédois est en train d'être remis fondamentalement en cause. Une certaine opinion allemande s'élève contre les 300 000 emplois que

les entreprises allemandes délocalisées créent par an alors que le marché du travail intérieur de ce même pays n'arrive pas à absorber les 150 000 nouveaux demandeurs d'emploi qui arrivent chaque année sur ce même marché.

À l'élimination du chômage aux États-Unis dont se félicite le Président Bill Clinton, certaines organisations professionnelles opposent la déshumanisation du travail salarié.

Est-il humainement digne d'avoir un emploi rémunéré à un salaire qui ne libère pas de la pauvreté absolue?

Les mouvements de protestation à la suite desquels la mise en oeuvre du nouveau Code du travail de la République de la Corée du Sud est différée pour en faire une seconde lecture indiquent clairement l'aspiration de certaines organisations professionnelles à un nouvel équilibre entre la durée hebdomadaire du travail et la durée du temps de loisir, entre stabilité de l'emploi et sécurité du travail.

Tous ces développements dans les pays cités renvoient à un message, à savoir trouver un équilibre entre quantité économique et qualité sociale, pour une meilleure compensation sociale et pour une meilleure exploitation des avantages comparatifs qu'offre la globalisation de l'économie mondiale et la libéralisation accrue des échanges commerciaux.

C'est également un des défis majeurs auxquels les pays africains doivent faire face au moment où ils doivent entrer dans le troisième millénaire.

La prochaine TICAD 2 devra s'engager à asseoir un mécanisme qui synthétise rationnellement son programme d'action et à assurer son autoévaluation afin de s'adapter à la pertinence des changements qui ne manqueront de se produire en Afrique.

Mon gouvernement s'engage à y prendre une part très active afin de donner à la TICAD 2 un contenu intérieurement plus africain et plus opérationnel. Ce mécanisme devra assurer constance, cohérence et continuité aux décisions et actions à mettre en oeuvre et à entreprendre. La prévision en devient un facteur dominant et déterminant pour favoriser la participation de l'État, dont le rôle devra être redéfini, et celle du secteur privé, dont la place doit être renforcée dans un partenariat productif, efficace et avantageux.

La prochaine TICAD 2 devra se préparer avec la pleine conviction que l'Afrique, malgré sa part actuelle de 1 % dans le produit national brut mondial, pour une population de 10,4 % du globe, offre les meilleures opportunités de croissance économique mondiale dans le troisième millénaire. Certains partenaires au développement croient même qu'après l'Asie, l'Afrique sera le continent qui drainera la prochaine croissance économique mondiale. Ils s'emploient à offrir des perspectives aux exportations africaines et à favoriser les investissements directs industriels et financiers en direction de l'Afrique tout en pesant de leur poids pour que certains pays africains puissent accéder à la nouvelle initiative de réduction de leur dette extérieure. La TICAD 2 devra s'engager fermement dans ce mouvement pour faire encore du Japon un partenaire privilégié et crédible.

VIEWS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS FOR THE OKINAWA CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT
24 - 25 JULY, 1997, OKINAWA, JAPAN

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the developing countries I would like to commend the Government of Japan and express our sincere appreciation for the initiatives and leadership it has taken in promoting international dialogue to address the development issue at the global level. Let me also thank the government and the people of Japan and particularly the people of this beautiful island of Okinawa for the warm welcome and generosity extended to us.

In the following few minutes I would like to share with you my views on the implementation of the emerging new development strategy which is largely evolving around the DAC - OECD policy document, "Shaping the 21st Century; The Contribution of Development Cooperation." Let me say a few words about that important and inspiring document. That policy document surmises and captures the lessons of the last fifty years in development and the contribution thereto of development cooperation. It pinpoints the essential ingredients for development and puts them in their proper perspective and relationship. It also charts out a strategy on how best development could be brought about. I have in mind here such aspects as the primacy of developing countries' own efforts in development and the complementary but essential nature of development cooperation; issues of ownership of the development process by the developing countries themselves; new rules and roles for partners in development; and a result-oriented approach supported by an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism. But the importance of the DAC - OECD policy document goes far beyond its conceptual merits. Coming from that quarter with the ability, the resources and the greater influence to make things happen in this world, the commitment of the developed countries in itself provides a crucial impetus for the success of the new development strategy. I am personally optimistic and greatly inspired by that document.

Mr. Chairman, I believe I speak for the majority if to all of the developing countries when I say that the DAC - OECD policy document has been well received and widely accepted by developing countries. The principal tenets of the policy have been arrived at by most of our countries in our own evaluations and in consultations with our respective leading development partners as well as in international fora including United Nations Conferences. Most of our countries are in various stages of implementation of policies very much in line with the new

development strategy. And what is better, success cases are emerging in countries that have persistently carried out similarly oriented policies. The fact that these success stories cut across different historical, political, cultural and economic settings, point out to the universal applicability of the approach captured in the new development strategy when innovatively and properly adapted to suit local conditions. The new development strategy is important, acceptable and workable, it is upon us all to work out concrete steps towards its implementation.

The first area that must be addressed in the implementation of the new development strategy is the very process that brings us together today, namely, an efficient and effective consultative and coordinating mechanism at the global, regional and country level where issues of development and development cooperation are discussed and worked out in the spirit of the new partnership. Implementation of the New Development Strategy means embarking upon a process that involves continuous consultations, coordination and review of activities on a scale requiring an institutionalized rather than ad-hoc consultative mechanism. The configuration and objectives of the mechanism at each tier have to be jointly worked out by all parties involved– though I could see a more pronounced role for the United Nations and the need for closer engagement between respective organizations and groupings of the developed and developing countries at the global and regional levels.

The participation in this conference of the permanent representatives to the United Nations as well as heads and high officials of UN agencies is significant in this regard as is also the fact that the promotion of the New Development Strategy through the United Nations is one of the agenda items to be addressed in this conference. I will briefly describe what we have set up in Tanzania as an example of a consultative mechanism at the developing country level. We have a Development Coordination Forum composed of key government officials and representatives of leading donors. The forum is a coordinating facility that deals with policy and cross-sectoral issues under the New Development Strategy. We also have at sectoral level, sectoral working groups to deal with substantive, practical issues. In setting up the forum it is understood that actual implementation of the new development strategy has to be carried out bilaterally between the government and the individual donor. Though still in its infancy, we find the forum to be very helpful in bringing together the government and the cooperating partners to discuss common issues and coordinate our activities. I look forward to the discussions and views on this subject during the course of this conference. I am convinced that it is necessary for the consultative mechanism to be broadened and strengthened if we are to translate the strategy into viable actions plans.

The second issue relating to the implementation of the New Development Strategy and which the consultative mechanism have to deal with at the earliest is to forge a unitary statement of vision of the future and a development strategy to take us there. The DAC - OECD policy document could be a framework to be developed to contain what has been worked out in the World Conferences; in international bodies such as the United Nations Special Initiative for Africa; in regional and sub-regional groupings; in bilateral fora and individual countries. The objective being to synchronize, avoid duplication and multiplicity of simultaneously operating strategies that so much sap capacities and dissipate our effort towards development. The hoped

for outcome being a truly global new development strategy encompassing and relating to regional, sub-regional and country strategies. Such a framework is not as ambitious and optimistic as it might appear at first glance. We are as near a development paradigm as we have never been before. The basic principles and approaches are almost universally accepted. The framework is totally feasible if sufficient flexibility is built-in to accommodate specific local conditions. This in no way implies that we have found a panacea for all development problems and that henceforth the going will be smooth and easy. Far from it, the complexity and enormity of the problems and what need be done is generally agreed upon as the biggest challenge facing the world today. I will now briefly touch on some aspects of what need be done on the field, at the developing country level, in the implementation of the new development strategy.

The most important is the charting out of a long-term development strategy and a policy framework to guide action towards the attainment of a national vision of the future. It is important that the basic principles of the new development strategy, with due regard to local conditions, operate in the process of charting out the long-term development strategy and reflected in it. I have in mind here issues of ownership; the all encompassing/comprehensive nature of the development process; a result-oriented approach; the importance of a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. In consultation with their development partners developing countries have to link and synchronize their long-term development strategies with global development measures. The long-term development strategy and its elaboration into a policy framework have to be the basis on which development cooperation is carried out.

I would like to highlight practical issues that need attention both in the design and implementation of long-term development strategies and the supportive development cooperation programmes. Limited institutional and human-resource capacity is a major problem area to be tackled within the long-term development strategy and also as a crucial factor in its implementation. In the design of long-term strategies and the setting out of the basic approach to their implementation developing countries should tap and benefit from the experiences and expertise accumulated in those countries which have made it and are sustainably on their way to developed-country status. The efficacy of this aspect of South-South cooperation lies not only in the similarity of conditions but also to the extensive reliable documentation of their development process and to living practitioners who actually trod the development mile. Let me add that South-South cooperation in these areas as well as consultations with other development partners do not in anyway affect the ownership principle which should not be equated with self-sufficiency or a do-it-alone approach. I will come back to this aspect when discussing technical assistance. Most developing countries are at the stage of preparing their long-term development strategies or at the initial stages of their implementation. The DAC - OECD initiative thus comes at an opportune time and the whole process would benefit from a broadened consultative and participatory framework to tap available abilities from all countries.

Another area that needs attention in the design and implementation of a long-term development strategy relates to the fact that even in the best of circumstances we are always faced with limited resources both institutional as well as human-resources capacities. Because of that not everything that need be done can be done.

The new development strategy calls for the need to focus on key sectors and areas that will pull or catalyze the remaining areas towards overall development. I will not repeat this well presented area and instead discuss the prioritization of on-going development programmes and projects. Country long-term development strategies will provide the framework for prioritization. In Tanzania we have set out to categorize all on-gong programmes and projects as core, semi-core i.e. borderline cases; and non-core. A non-core status means immediate abandonment and there will be no budgetary allocations for the programme or project concerned. Core programmes and projects will be retained and budgetary allocations will be allocated for their implementation. A Semi-core status calls for a transitory arrangement to be agreed upon with the respective development partner in the case of development cooperation programme and project. The obvious practical difficulties involved in exercises of this nature will find solutions in adherence to the requirements of long-term development strategies.

Aid coordination within the developing countries is one of the weakest areas in development cooperation and should receive adequate attention in the implementation of the new development strategy. Lack of clearly defined long-term strategies has led to programmes and projects being undertaken irrespective of their linkage or lack thereof with other areas of the economy and society. Similarly, capacity inadequacy and institutional deficiencies had led to donors setting up parallel implementation structures separate from existing local administrative organizations. While the drawing up of long-term development strategies will reduce instances of non-priority undertakings, an efficient and effective mechanism for aid coordination is required to properly integrate domestic efforts and those of development partners and set up operating arrangements on how this is to be done in accordance with agreed principles of the new development strategy including those relating to ownership and sustainability.

It is important that coordination of development activities be undertaken by the government of the developing country concerned. Similarly, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the country should be built into the country's own structures. These are essential requirements for ownership and sustainabiltiy. The country coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be linked to regional and global mechanisms for purposes of the overall global strategy.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, the new development strategy might also require changes in the form of development assistance extended to developing countries. Inadequacies of the project assistance format has led to a gradual adoption of programme assistance in support of sectoral or macro-economic programmes. As we move towards a new development strategy, development efforts will be marshaled in accordance with country long-term development strategies worked out in consultations with each country's development partners. This opens up to a wider possibility land advantage of going into budget support format to facilitate complete resource budgeting as well as to standardize and rationalize operational procedures and feedback systems to enhance the efficiency of aid resource administration. As capacity and confidence builds up in the new system, budget support should encompass a proportionately growing share of development cooperation resource flows.

Let me now briefly touch on the issue of technical assistance which in the case of Tanzania

accounts for some 30% of total aid flows. Apart from its monetary value, this part of development cooperation is closely linked with issues of ownership, capacity building and sustainability in development cooperation. I had earlier mentioned the setting up of parallel structures to manage development programmes or projects to overcome capacity inadequacies and institutional deficiencies.

The net result of this situation is loss of ownership, little or negative impact in capacity building and unsustainability of concerned programmes or projects. The success of the new development strategy will to a greater extent be affected by how technical cooperation is undertaken.

Technical assistance must aim at coaching or training developing country experts to undertake development activities. Technical experts from outside should as far as possible refrain from undertaking those activities themselves. This form of technical assistance will admittedly be slower than the traditional approach but the results are sustainable and ensures real transfer of know-how. The capacity of developing countries to manage and own their development process will thereby be greatly improved.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, I have tried to discuss areas that need attention in the implementation of the new development strategy. No single coverage could exhaust the complexity of issues involved in this subject.

In summary I have emphasized five main areas. First is the need for an effective consultative mechanism at the global, regional and developing country level. I propose that such mechanism be institutionalized. The Second area is the need to merge the various international initiatives on development into a single global statement on development to synchronize efforts and avoid duplication. The Third area is the importance of long-term development strategies for developing countries on the basis of which development cooperation can take place. The Fourth area is the need for capacity building in developing countries to enable them effectively own and manage the development process. I propose that coordination of the development activities in those countries be done by the developing countries themselves as should the monitoring and evaluation of the development process. Lastly I pointed out the requirement for changes in the form of development cooperation to facilitate attainment of the objectives of the new development strategy.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished participants, let me now end with this remark. Most developing countries are fully committed to the new development strategy in the forms that they have been pursing over recent years. The new development strategy is consistent and in conformity with their policy orientations. They are agreeable and ready to work with their development partners in setting up the framework and modalities of implementing the New Development Strategy. It is in this light that this conference which has brought together participants from developed and developing countries is so important indeed.

I am glad and feel greatly honored to be invited to participate in this conference.

I thank you for your attention.

"Sub-Sahara Africa and a New Strategy for International Development in the 21st Century"

A Keynote Address by Professor Adebayo Adedeji
Executive Director, African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies,
and Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the
Economic Commission for Africa (1975-1991)

I. Introduction

First and foremost, I should like to express my most sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for inviting me not only to participate at this Okinawa Conference on Development but also for giving me the opportunity to deliver one of the keynote addresses at the Conference. Appearing before such a star-stubbed and most eminent international gatherings, this is indeed a great privilege.

I must also congratulate the Government of and the people of Japan for their untiring effort to promote international development and for being very innovative in doing so. By providing a forum for brain-storming under a most enabling environment, the chances of arriving relatively easily at a consensus whenever the General Assembly of the United Nations is eventually formally seized with the subject is greatly enhances. And no less important is the fact that any global strategy which emerges from such a process cannot but represent a common vision of the world in the twenty-first century and the basis for a true global partnership.

Although, I was not privileged to participate at last year's Tokyo Conference on the same subject, I have had the opportunity of reading the summary of the proceedings as contained in the annex attached to the letter (dated 9 July, 1996) of the distinguished Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, His Excellency, Mr. Hisashi Owada to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. While the discussions covered a wide range of issues and topics, it was nevertheless evident that participants were united in their determination to draw lessons from the past and by so doing, come out with a strategy that can truly reflect the shared values and common vision of the members of the international community.

II. Principles of a New Strategy for international development

I find all the guiding principles of a new strategy for international development in the 21st century articulated at Tokyo (March 1996) and elaborated and fine tuned at the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of OECD at their May 1996 meeting unexceptionable. These include, inter alia (i) adopting a human-centred holistic development strategy; (ii) that the strategy should be owned by, rather than be imposed on, the countries

concerned; (iii) a new global partnership should be forged between the developed and developing countries; (iv) the development strategy should move beyond the traditional donor-recipient model towards participatory international development co-operation; (v) strategy must not be narrowly economistic. It must encompass peace and security particularly personal, community and global security in all fields including social and environmental domains; (vi) the strategy should be based on, and continually foster, sound economic policies and good governance; (vii) it should have a clear, simply stated and achievable set of targets that constitute a common vision for the future and its targets should be output oriented, thus laying the foundation for a new culture of results-oriented cooperation; (viii) a firm commitment to achieving the targets through a stronger compact for effective partnership and commitment of adequate resources and political will; (ix) the approaches to cooperation (bilateral, trilateral, multilateral etc.) should be flexible and pragmatic while at the same time complementary and mutually reinforcing; and, (x) such an approach should take into account external debt issues and need for budget restructuring as and when necessary and provide for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the strategy and the specific targets.

III. Myths and Realities in the diplomacy of international development cooperation

There is no doubt that the strict observance of these ten principles in the finalisation of a development strategy for the 21st Century would make international economic cooperation a true partnership based on mutual respect and mutuality of interests. But the cynic should be forgiven for adopting a deja vu attitude. How often have donor countries (though not all) avowed publicly that only the Africans and their development strategy only for the donors through the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to engage, directly or indirectly, in arm twisting to make them succumb to the externally-crafted programmes, policies and strategies?

Even when strategies have been worked out and adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations as were the cases of the United nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1998-1990 (UNPAARED) and the United nations New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990 (UN-NADAF), they have been more honoured in the breach than in observance by the international community. While undertaking the final review and appraisal of UNPAARED in 1991, the General Assembly noted that the Programme had not quite become the focal point for economic policy or for resource mobilisation on behalf of Africa, that a global compact at the continental level had not been achieved, and that continued adverse external environment in terms of sharp export price falls, real interest rate increases, and declines in private sector investment and loans limited the positive effects of efforts made by Africa and its development partners.

In other words, the very fact that the five-year UNPAARED which was adopted by consensus at a 1987 Special Session of the General Assembly was not implemented by the

international community and the IFIs did not really reflect a genuine consensus and commitment on the part of Africa's development partners. Whereas UNPAARED's focus was on the need for fundamental structural transformation of the monocultural African economies, the IFIs and donors insisted on African countries implementing structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) as a condition for receiving aid, debt rescheduling and debt relief and other support.

SAPs sought to achieve external balances, reduce budgetary deficits, ensure sufficient foreign exchange earnings to maintain the servicing of Africa's external debt and restore growth. Unfortunately, only limited growth has occurred and even then at the cost of severe social setbacks and political instability. Since SAPs appeared to be an imposition on the part of IFIs in a context where the African people themselves had little to say in the domestic policy-making process, the programmes have consistently lacked public support.

Even in spite of the adoption of UN-NADAF, SAP has remained the official development paradigm supported by the donor community for Africa. The excessive focus of SAP on macro-economic crisis management has tended to ignore the need for fundamental structural transformations of Africa's economies so necessary to reduce their vulnerability to external shocks, given them greater flexibility and improve both production and productivity. Needless to add that the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes (AAF-SAP) adopted by the General Assembly in the autumn of 1989 has been totally ignored by the donors and the IFIs even though its ownership is African. The African Ministers of Planning and Finance and the Heads of State and Government under, respectively, the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Africa and the Organisation of African Unity had given it their unanimous support as the development paradigm best suited to bring their economies out of the doldrums on to the part of sustainable human development.

The protagonists of SAP, disillusioned as they are with its failure to achieve its principal objectives are still wont to argue that it has done more good than harm. This is debatable. But as one of them admitted a while ago:

> *"the aims of adjustment in the 1980s in Sub-Sahara Africa at least, were only rarely being achieved. Growth was not being restored; savings and investment were falling rather than rising; balance of payments were only modestly improving; foreign indebtedness remained severe; even where there were medium-term macro-improvements, there were concerns that long-term prospects were actually being damaged; and poverty social conditions, far from being redressed, appeared in several cased to be getting worse."*[1]

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[1] Robert Cassen, "Structural Adjustment in Sub-Saharan Africa" in Willem Van Der Geest (ed), Negotiating Structural Adjustment in Africa. (London, 1994); p.9.

It is also sometime argued by SAP protagonists that the situation would have been worse without the programmes. But as Reginald Green wrote about a decade ago in a paper presented at the United Nations International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development held in Khartoum, Sudan in March 1988, "one basic test of all stabilisation and structural adjustment, of all economic recovery and development programmes is whether they will improve the human condition - making poor people less poor and vulnerable people less vulnerable by making it possible for them to produce more and by increasing their access to basic services. If a programme cannot pass that test in prospect or in operation, it is fatally flawed and itself in need of structural adjustment of total design"[2]

The UNDP Human Development Report 1997, published a few weeks ago has been devoted almost exclusively to the problems of poverty and its eradication. Although the incident of poverty has fallen dramatically - faster in the past 50 years than in the previous 50 decades - poverty is still the plight of one-quarter of the world's population. Sub-Sahara Africa has the greatest incidence of poverty with some 220 million people in income poverty. The report argues that eradicating extreme poverty in the first one or two decades of the 21st century is a feasible and affordable goal.

But for this goal to be achieved, the Report points to forces which must be removed because they result in the decumulation of capital assets and in asset erosion and the consequent persistence of degrading deprivation. These forces, as listed in the Report, are HIV/AIDS pandemic, environmental hazards, natural disasters, crime and violence, conflicts and wars and structural adjustment programme with its overly concerns with growth. While economic growth can be a powerful means to eradicate poverty, it is not enough. Growth's quality and structure must be sufficiently "pro-poor", the Report argues. All these forces have contributed to throwing millions of people into poverty or to exacerbating the poverty conditions of the people in many countries.

IV. Sub-Sahara Africa's overarching objectives of the development strategy for the 21st century

To recount Africa's agony during the past 17 years and in particular its several unsuccessful attempts to get the donor community and the IFIs to accept African's perception of the appropriate development path and strategy suitable for their economies is not to

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[2] Reginald Herbold Green, "The Human Dimension as the test of and a means of achieving Africa's economic recovery and development: Reweaving the Social Fabric, Restoring the broken Pot" in Adebayo Adedeji et al (eds) The Human Dimension of Africa's Persistent Economic Crises (London, 1990); p.3

indulge in any act of recrimination or to open any sore or start any controversy. It is simply to refresh the memory of this distinguished gathering engaged in a brainstorming exercise about the future of humanity what ownership of strategies conjures in the minds of the Africans. Even when they have given up any attempt to prepare their development paradigm (like the Lagos Plan of Action) entirely on their own but have shared the responsibility with their development partners (as in the case of UNPAAERD and UN-NADAF), their efforts have not been crowned with much success.

Africa has been consistent in its belief that its long-term development interests lie in transforming the structures of its economies, empowering the people and building their assets so as to put them in a position to successfully combat poverty. The responsibility of governments in addressing structural inequalities in the distribution of assets, especially land, credit and social services, and in equalising opportunities in accessing education and public employment was also recognised. Thus, it has long been recognised that for Africa to get out of the poverty trap " the focus of policy must be what people are capable of doing; that is, to live long, to be well nourished, to be able to read and write, to escape from avoidable diseases, to have their human rights guaranteed in a society that respects the inherent dignity and worth of each person because there is a general recognition that the denial of fundamental freedom is not only an individual and personal tragedy but the root cause of political and social unrest, violence and conflict within the society and nation and to launch a process of sustainable human development that not only generates economic growth but ushers forth socio-economic and political transformation that regenerates the environment rather than destroy it and empowers the people rather than marginalises them."[3]

With the emergence of the debt crisis in the early 1980s and the need for credits not only to service the debt but also to meet urgent needs, the acceptance of the Washington Consensus with SAP at the heart of this neoclassical paradigm became a Hobson's choice. And all pretences at independent policy-making and national strategising went out with the wind.

It is important that if any new strategy is to succeed, SAP must be dropped or remolded along the line of AAF-SAP. An imaginative determination of the debt problem is also crucial. The present short-leash, too-little-too-late approach must be abandoned. Until the debt problem is resolved, sustainable development in Africa is impossible. The abandonment of SAP and its replacement by a human-centred holistic development strategy

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[3] Adebayo Adedeji, "Impact of Structural Adjustment and US-Africa Economic Relations: A note for Discussion" Text of a paper delivered at the meeting of the Study Group a US Economic with Africa of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York (February 6, 1997).

will bring to an end the excessive economistic approach to development while focusing attention on the imperative of a democratically-determined process of development. The concerns for 'things' rather than for people nurtured by the dominant paradigm of the eighties has created a divided society where the less fortunate are hurt, damaged and discounted by public policies which have jettisoned social justice and sacrificed the common good.

Finally, it must be noted that a human-centred holistic development paradigm is more conducive sound economic policies and good governance.

V. Devising innovative approaches, structures and mechanisms for promoting international development cooperation

While a good strategy is a conditio sine qua non for revitalising international development cooperation in the 21st Century, it must be accompanied by new and innovative approach, structures and mechanisms to facilitate and accelerate the process of cooperation. The traditional modes of cooperation - bilateral, regional, south-south and multilateral - important as they are no long sufficient on their own.

While no one can deny that the system of international economic and technical cooperation designed after World War II has worked very well, and that multilateralism has brought about the interdependent world of today, there are many cracks in the multilateral system. There is a growing retreat from multilateralism and with it a regression to bilateralism.

Without any doubt, donors prefer bilateral cooperation for the same reasons the recipient developing countries would like to see it reduced considerably. On its part, a new regionalism is emerging - a regionalism that is outward-oriented rather than inward looking and a new regionalism that cuts across the North-South divide and in fact brings together individual countries from both to cooperate together in their mutual interests. This is a development in the right direction. But it can expanded. Instead of pure north-south or south-south cooperation, trilateral cooperation can be developed.

In terms of the cooperants, this is a tripartite or triangular form of cooperation embracing countries drawn from two or more regions of the south and developed countries of the north and/or multilateral international organisations. The beauty about trilateralism is its tremendous flexibility. It can be intergovernmental or non-governmental or a mixed grill. Unlike bilateral and multilateral cooperation arrangements which are invariably intergovernmental, trilateral cooperation is not a monopoly of governments.

In a paper - Africa and Asia: Forging Trilateral Cooperation - submitted to the recently held Asia-Africa Forum II in Bangkok (June 1997), which was also part of the preparatory

process for the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD II), Box 1 below was produced to illustrate the flexibility and resourcefulness of trilateral cooperation. The Box shows that under a trilateral (triangular) arrangement, a variety of organisations and institutions besides governments can participate provided the tripartite nature is preserved. Every project will involve governments and/or entities in one or more African countries plus one or more Asian countries plus one or more OECD member states and/or entities or UN organisations and/or international financial institutions (IFIs) and/or private foundations.

Box 1 Different forms of trilateral cooperation

Examples of different forms which trilateral cooperation can make are:

(i) One or more African governments + one or more Asian countries + one or more OECD member states at government levels

(ii) One or more African governments + one or more Asian governments + one or more multilateral and/or international organisations

(iii) One or more African governments + one or more Asian countries + a private foundation or a consortium of private foundation

(iv) An African Regional intergovernmental organisation (such as ECOWAS or SADC) + one or more Asian countries + multilateral and/or United Nations organisations (UNDP)

(v) An African intergovernmental organisation + an Asian intergovernmental organisation + individual OECD member state(s)

(vi) An African intergovernmental organisation or a group of IGOs + an Asian IGO or a group of Asian IGOs + individual private northern Foundations or a Consortium of Foundation(s)

(vii) An African NGO or a consortium of African NGOs + one or more Asian Governments + OECD member state(s) or foundation(s)

(viii) An African NGO or a consortium of African NGOs + Asian NGO or a consortium of Asian NGOs + Northern NGOs or a consortium of Northern NGOs

(ix) African research/strategic studies institution or a consortium + Asian research/strategic studies institution or a consortium + OECD member states or OECD research institution or a consortium

(x) African research/strategic studies institution or a consortium + Asian research/strategic studies institution or a consortium + a private Northern Foundation or a consortium and/or United Nations organisation (UNDP)

The idea of development contracts is admirably suitable for trilateral projects and activities, each of which will be the subject of a specific agreement entered into voluntarily by all concerned with the project. It will be legally binding and all the participants will contribute resources for its implementation in accordance with the formula agreed upon at the time the project/activity was negotiated. This will move international cooperation away from the donor-recipient mould. In other words, the major characteristics of these development contracts are their concreteness and focus on specified programmes, legal commitment on the part of all concerned to play their assigned role and the provision of reciprocal conditionalities. Thus, each activity/programme being subject of a contract has a time frame for implementation, an assured source of funding and a built-in system of accountability.

Finally, trilateral cooperation makes it possible for clusters of like-minded countries in different parts of North and South to get together to achieve specific objects and deliver specific targets in accordance with the letter and spirit of the new strategy for international development in the 21st century. It provides an opportunity for an unprecedented bonding arrangement while satisfying the requirement of south-south and north-south cooperation.

Fortunately, the Bangkok Statement adopted at the end of the second Asia-Africa Forum furthering Asia-Africa cooperation recognised the potentials of trilateral (triangular) cooperation as means of rapidly expanding Asia-Africa cooperation on the one hand and North-South cooperation on the other. It welcomed the possibilities for broadening it to include the private sector, academic and research institutions and NGOs as recommended in Box 1. It is hoped that this Okinawa Conference on Development will take a similar positive and pro-active stand and that this will be reflected in the new strategy for international development in the 21st century. Indeed, the Bangkok Forum took a great leap forward when in its message to the Denver Summit of the Eight (June 1997), it urged the seven most industrialised countries in the world and Russia to reinforce their support to inter-regional and triangular cooperation aimed at furthering African development in the spirit of the new partnership for development adopted at the Lyon Summit of 1996.

VI. Concluding Remark

Let me conclude this keynote address by thanking you, distinguished participants, for your attention and to express once more my most sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for giving me this unique opportunity. I wish the Conference every success.

"Okinawa and Development"

Speech by Governor Masahide Ota
at the dinner hosted by His Excellency Mr. Hisashi Owada and Governor Masahide Ota

24 July 1997
Okinawa Prefectural Government

1. INTRODUCTION

His Excellency Mr. Hisashi Owada,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening. As has been mentioned, my name is Masahide Ota and I am Governor of Okinawa Prefecture. On behalf of Okinawan people I would like to extend our heartfelt welcome to you all. I would like to express how much of an honor it is to hold this important international conference in Okinawa to discuss the "Issue of Development" which is a common theme throughout the world. Please allow me to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and all persons concerned for their efforts in organizing this conference. We have representatives from 28 countries and 8 international organizations and I would like to say that it is a great pleasure and privilege to have the opportunity to speak in front of all of you here today.

I think that perhaps for many of you this is your first visit to Okinawa and because of this I would like to include a brief introduction to the region as I address the issue of international development in relation to Okinawa's present situation.

2. HISTORY OF OKINAWA

Until Okinawa became a prefecture of Japan in 1879, it was a small kingdom. The Ryukyu Kingdom, as it was called, capitalized on its geographical position in relation to other Asian nations and, from the 14th to 16th centuries, prospered as a commercial nation that actively traded with Japan and Korea to the north, the Philippines to the south and the other nations of Southeast Asia. With an enterprising spirit, Okinawans actively took part in trade with all countries, acting as "A bridge to all nations with ships."

It is said that the citizens of Okinawa Prefecture are relaxed and reach out to people from overseas with an open heart. There is an Okinawan proverb, *icharba chodei* which says "Once

met, we are brothers." Also since the 15th century, all kinds of weapons have been banned in Okinawa, resulting in Okinawans being known as 'people of propriety' and 'people of peace and friendship.'

However, during the last stage of the Pacific War, Okinawa became the site of the only land battle in Japan, and our people suffered an horrific experience in which more than 100,000 citizens or almost one third of the total population perished. Many precious cultural assets handed down by our forefathers were lost as well. In mourning those who fell during the Battle of Okinawa and for the sake of world peace, the 'Cornerstone of Peace' was established in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. Irrespective of nationality, the names of all those military soldiers and civilians who lost their lives are engraved upon the 'Cornerstone of Peace.' At present, there are about 230,000 names engraved there.

After the war, Okinawa was removed from the administrative authority of Japan and placed under the control of the United States military for 27 years. Vast American military bases were constructed by confiscating private land. Even though 52 years have passed since the end of the war, and 25 years since the reversion of Okinawa back to Japan, today these facilities, largely unchanged, are still in existence. The US military installations occupy 11% of the land in Okinawa Prefecture and when considering the Okinawa main island this figure rises to 20%.

The military facilities are concentrated in the central and southern regions of the main island where approximately 80% of Okinawan citizens live and, for this reason, we are unable to proceed with urban development, road construction and the securing of land for industrial use. This has become a huge obstacle for the overall development of Okinawa. As a result, we have incessantly appealed for a reduction in US military facilities and their forces to the governments of both Japan and the US.

3. OKINAWA'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

In November of last year a plan was unveiled by the prefecture that sets out a grand design for Okinawa in the 21st Century, entitled the "Cosmopolitan City Formation Concept."

Today, the international community is promoting mutual dependence. Unless we actively cooperate in order to bring together the opinions of every country, including developed and developing countries, we cannot hope to see the global development that we seek. As a member of the world community, it is becoming increasingly more important for our country to play an active role to obtain world peace and stability.

'The Cosmopolitan City Formation Concept' bases itself on the elements of this international community and has taken into consideration the following points: Okinawa's geographical location, natural environment, historical experience and the spirit of its citizens.

One of the aims of this concept is to engage in exchange in diverse fields of the global community such as economics, science, culture and human resource development in order to promote the development of Okinawa. For this to be attained, there needs to be an easing of regulations, the formation of a special economic zone and the maintenance of an airport, harbor and an advanced information and communication base, all of international standing.

Another aim is for Okinawa to carry some of the responsibility of Japan's varied contributions to the international community, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. For this reason, every institution and function must be maintained as a base for contributing to the global community.

4. INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The achieve our goals under the Cosmopolitan City Formation Concept, we have been planning various projects. The aim of the international conference is to discuss policies based on a new global partnership where developed countries and developing countries will cooperate in tackling development problems. Today, in line with the aim, I would like to talk about international cooperation and the promising state of future technical cooperation in Okinawa. As well as this I would like to discuss Okinawa's aim of creating a base for contributing to the international community.

Today, to foster human resources in developing countries, the Okinawa International Center has been established in Okinawa. This center is managed by JICA, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, an organization for international cooperation in Japan. The center accepts approximately 300 trainees from various countries around the world. Since being established in 1985, the center has accepted approximately 3000 trainees from 122 different countries.

We understand that for the majority of trainees, Okinawa has been thought of very highly. This is due to the familiarity of Okinawa's warm natural environment and other factors, such as the many opportunities for exchange with the people of Okinawa Prefecture through various events and ceremonies.

Okinawa has also established a unique system for accepting overseas trainees. At the present time, Okinawa accepts approximately 40 students and trainees each year as fishery trainees from countries in the Pacific and students who are descendants of Okinawan emigrants to South America.

In 1990 the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems was set up with its headquarters in Okinawa. At present, the society has members in 68 countries around the world and has become the biggest non-governmental organization (NGO) involved in mangrove issues.

For the Society, the Okinawa Prefectural Government is carrying out financial and 'human' support but in some parts of Southeast Asia environmental destruction, through the indiscriminate felling of mangroves, has become a topic for concern. Therefore, in the future, we would like to continue our support and work together for the continued administration of ecosystems and the restoration of mangroves throughout the world.

In October of last year, Okinawa Prefecture established a foundation called the "Subtropical Comprehensive Research Institute." This research institute, while comprehensively researching the various problems found in the subtropics and on the island, as well as constructing a reciprocal global network between research organizations, it will be aiming at contributing to the prosperity of academic study and research in the Asia-Pacific region.

Shortly after the research institute was established, a "Leadership Programme for Environment and Development" was held with the cooperation of the Rockefeller Foundation on the ten days between the 14th and 25th of October last year. Approximately 200 people from 10 countries around the world, including India, South Africa and Brazil, participated in the programme.

Next. I would like to introduce some points regarding the technology that Okinawa possesses, techniques that I think would contribute to growth in developing countries if the technology were transferred there.

The Okinawa Prefectural Government has established techniques for the eradication of the small tangerine fruitfly and the melon fruitfly which damage crops of tangerines, melons and cucumbers. This technology made possible the exporting of tangerines, cucumbers and melons, Okinawan specialities which before could not be exported. This has become a big impetus for the promotion of agriculture in Okinawa.

At the present time, we are giving technical guidance to trainees from several countries, including Thailand. Through the full scale transferring of technical knowledge, we will be able to cooperate in the promotion of agriculture in regions that have the same problems as Okinawa. We now are in the process of considering how to plan the strengthening of this system of technical guidance in the future.

Carrying on from this, Okinawa Prefecture is in the process of carrying out trial research on techniques for the eradication of the small sweet potato weevil and the sweet potato weevil which are noxious insects and harmful to the sweet potato.

In addition, we are promoting research and development in the application of deep sea water areas. By making use of the deep sea's wealth of nutritious food, cleanliness and low

temperatures, we consider that the highly effective cultivation of marine plants and seafood as well as the coordinating of crop maturity, will contribute to the promotion of agriculture and fisheries in tropical and subtropical regions.

After Okinawa's return to mainland Japan, the opening up of agricultural land, road construction and other forms of development were advanced very rapidly. As a result of this, soil flow into rivers and the sea, damage to farms and coral reefs and also the pollution of beaches have occurred. This has become a major issue for reconsidering Okinawa's state of development. At present the Okinawa Prefectural Government is in the process of tackling the development of technology to prevent the spilling of soil into rivers, and other activities such as the cleaning up of polluted beaches. Reconsideration of development in Okinawa and the techniques that we have accumulated for the prevention of pollution and the restoration of polluted areas, are all things that will be of use in regions with similar problems.

5. PROSPECTS AS A BASE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION

I would now like to talk about the creation of a base for contributing to the international community, a goal the Okinawa prefectural Government has been working towards.

Along with establishing 'peace exchange,' 'technical cooperation,' and 'cultural and economic exchange' as basic policies of the Cosmopolitan City Formation Concept, the Prefectural Government will set up a 'Subtropical Environment Exchange Block' as a standard for the regions that will participate in the exchange. This exchange block will extend from Micronesia to form a region covering the Philippines, Singapore, the countries of Indochina, the coast of South China, Taiwan and the Nansei Islands.

Based on the various problems common throughout this exchange block, and paying attention to the many similarities with Okinawa in such areas as tropical and subtropical climates, eating habits, natural features and physical features mainly of island areas, the Okinawa Prefectural Government will promote, to a greater extent, multilateral and comprehensive exchange.

After having promoted exchange through these activities we have conceived many projects, and today I would like to introduce some of these forms of contribution on the international scene.

Firstly, in order to plan global exchange in the fields of science, culture, environmental issues, and medical care, we will create a base for contributing to the international community,

especially to the Asia-Pacific region, by establishing the provisionally named Okinawa International North South Center. This center will support specialists and researchers from the Asia-Pacific region, who will stay in Okinawa for surveying and research. The East-West Center in Hawaii will perhaps give you a basic idea of what this center would be like.

Furthermore, to contribute to the international intellectual scene, we are planning the establishment of a combined graduate school university with the collaboration of Japan and the United States. This university will also be open to students from the countries of Asia, and we think it will become an institution that can cope with the high level needs of human resource development in those countries.

We are considering inviting the establishment of an 'International Emergency medical Care Center,' an 'Overseas Youth Cooperation Training Center' and other projects that will utilize Okinawa's geographical and environmental conditions.

This International Emergency Medical Care Center will maintain support systems in the event of earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions and other such natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region. I think that establishing this in Okinawa would be the most logical thing to do as it would be the closest medical center in Japan to the Asia-Pacific region and it has an airport that can be used 24 hours a day.

What is more, I believe establishing the "International Contribution NGO Support Center," and "Overseas Youth Cooperation Training Center" which can carry out the dispatching of talented individuals to tropical and subtropical regions in Okinawa, which has a similar climate, natural surroundings and customs to the Asia-Pacific region, would be most logical.

Based on Okinawa's experience, we are planning an International Peace Research Center. From the viewpoint of human rights and environmental issues, this research center, not forgetting the lessons Okinawa has learnt, will form a base for research and education on peace. And through this, we are aiming at contributing to the peace and stability of the world.

Of course, these numerous and large-scaled projects cannot be realized solely through Okinawa's efforts alone. Fortunately, the central Japanese government has shown its understanding of the plans put forward in the Cosmopolitan City Formation Concept. For this fiscal year, the central government has already taken steps to establish a special adjustment expense fund of 1 billion yen and in cooperation with the Okinawa Prefectural Government; and we have begun surveying and examining 35 projects including the various projects I have just mentioned.

6. CONCLUSION

As I mentioned earlier, Okinawa Prefecture is striving for development in its economy and other areas as a member of the global community, and at the same time to create a region which will actively contribute to the development of a global society.

Those of you attending this conference are experts, not only in international development issues but also in international cooperation, with a wealth of knowledge and experience. With the holding of this conference in Okinawa, I sincerely hope that you will all actively give us your guidance and support in the days ahead.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my speech by expressing my hopes for the success of this Okinawa Conference on Development and for your continued active participation in the future.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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Agenda items 29, 38, 46, 108 and 112

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 6 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith the text of the five main resolutions adopted at the ninety-eighth session of the General Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Cairo from 11 to 16 September 1997, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament and Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

I shall appreciate distribution of the text of these resolutions as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 29, 38, 46, 108 and 112.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

[Original: English and French]

ENSURING LASTING DEMOCRACY BY FORGING CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 15 September 1997)

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Convinced that the dignity of the individual is inviolable,

Believing that respect for human rights is not only a fundamental value, but also a crucial element in the development of stable, democratic and prosperous societies at peace with each other, and *convinced* that the rights of women and children are inherent in human rights,

Convinced that respect for human rights is a prerequisite for peace within individual States, as well as for peaceful good-neighbourly relations between States,

Also convinced that a parliament elected freely and fairly is the best guarantee of human dignity and the prosperity of citizens,

Appreciating that democracy offers the best framework for citizens to develop their creativity and potential and contribute to the establishment, development and preservation of their society,

Convinced that access to education and information is vital to citizens' participation in society,

Stressing that the principles of democracy may be applied differently, according to the culture, history and constitution of each nation,

Observing nonetheless that democracy presupposes that:

- The people have the power to decide programmes and policies directly or through representatives chosen in free and fair elections;
- Those in power are effectively given the means to manage the country;
- Those in power are accountable to the people,

Believing that good governance ensures the effective, honest, equitable, accessible, accountable and transparent exercise of power by governments,

Convinced that a representative democracy can only endure if citizens trust constitutional processes and institutions and if legislators earn their respect,

Reasserting that parliament is the true and legitimate representative of the people, and *emphasising* the need therefore to strengthen links between this institution, its members and the people,

Aware that parliament has an obligation to provide citizens with information about its work,

Convinced that elected parliamentarians have a duty to be fully informed of citizens' circumstances and problems through constant communication with their constituents,

Acknowledging that the media have an important role to play in facilitating communication between parliament and citizens,

Further acknowledging the important role which various groups and institutions play in a democracy by articulating diverse sociocultural, political and economic issues,

Aware that in every society, peaceful conditions in which candidates, representatives and the people are not subject to violence or intimidation are essential for the smooth functioning of the democratic process,

Welcoming the role played by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in strengthening the ties of friendship between parliaments and parliamentarians and, through them, between peoples, and *conscious* of the need for confidence in political processes, parties, parliaments and parliamentarians,

1. *Calls on* all States to safeguard free and fair elections without any discrimination, in conformity with the Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Paris in March 1994;

2. *Urges* States to condemn and take action against all acts of violence against the people's representatives, candidates and the people themselves;

3. *Further urges* States to safeguard the role of parliaments and political institutions so as to enable parliamentarians to play their role properly and freely, *inter alia* by adopting legislation, overseeing the government and debating major societal issues;

4. *Calls on* States to ensure citizens' unrestricted and permanent access to education and information and, in this regard, *recognises* the value of new technologies for parliamentary work;

5. *Also calls on* States to recognise and accommodate diversity as a guarantee of democracy in a pluralist society;

6. *Further calls on* States to strengthen representative parliamentary democracy with constitutional instruments, including petitions and referenda, parliamentary recall and the right to initiate legislation, wherever these may be appropriate and feasible in the light of the constitutional system and established political culture;

7. *Appeals* to parliaments and governments to ensure that citizens are aware of their democratic rights and responsibilities regarding their participation in the democratic process and to see to it that legislation is drafted in clear and simple language which is comprehensible to citizens;

8. *Emphasises* the need to foster direct contacts between parliamentarians and citizens through meetings and discussions at all levels, nationally and internationally;

9. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure, through an open and accessible public information policy, accurate and comprehensive reporting of the work of parliamentarians in the media;

10. *Also emphasises* the need to ensure unrestricted, objective, ethical and unbiased reporting by the media on the work of parliament and parliamentarians;

11. *Encourages* National Groups to consider each of the cases in the report of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and to take appropriate follow-up action in their favour.

ANNEX II

[Original: English and French]

EMPLOYMENT IN A GLOBALISING WORLD

Resolution adopted without a vote* by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 15 September 1997)

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Considering that the globalising world will bring benefits only if it arises from collective thought and joint action as well as an exchange of ideas and opinions reflecting the whole spectrum of the interests and levels of socio-economic development of all peoples,

Underscoring the growing move towards economic globalisation, primarily characterised by the liberalisation of international trade, increased flows of foreign direct investment, globalisation of money markets, as well as the confirmation of the role of international financial institutions in States' financial, monetary and trade policies,

Employment

Considering that this globalisation comes in a world economic context characterised by rising unemployment in most industrialised countries, massive unemployment in many former planned economies, as well as a deterioration of workers' living conditions in a number of countries, particularly developing ones,

Deeming that the present globalisation process may promote production and employment worldwide and that increased international trade and investment flows may lead to expanded markets and a better distribution of world economic resources, thus serving the interests of all States in varying degrees,

Mindful of the challenges posed by economic globalisation that weighs heavily on job markets in the industrialised countries, which fear losing jobs to developing countries with growing export sectors,

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* The Belgian delegation expressed reservations to operative paragraphs 9 and 12 of the resolution.

Emphasising in particular the potential negative effects of globalisation on employment in the developing countries and those in transition, which are obliged to adapt to the new world economic context characterised by intense regional and international competition at a time when most of these countries are suffering from problems posed by internal and external financial deficits, debt servicing, unemployment aggravated by population growth and the spread of poverty, in addition to the rising social costs often tied to economic globalisation and the switch to a market economy,

Aware that tackling only the economic aspects of problems stemming from the structural reforms implemented by the developing countries gives rise to certain social and political complications,

Recognising the need to alleviate problems faced by the workers of countries in situations of war or embargo,

Underscoring the principles and criteria established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and other UN specialised agencies and bodies concerning respect for fundamental labour rights,

Migrant workers

Aware that economic requirements, civil unrest, natural disasters and various forms of persecution have often forced workers to seek employment wherever they can best ensure their own survival and that of their families,

Also aware that as firms seek to survive and prosper in global markets and as technology changes the ways in which goods and services are produced, there is an increasing likelihood that firms will change traditional employment practices and restructure the nature of the employer-employee relationship,

Noting with concern that there are some 42 million migrant workers, more than at any other period in history,

Concerned about the precarious legal situation of workers in some countries and about unscrupulous labour practices used against migrant workers,

Also concerned that many migrant workers are subject to maltreatment and human rights abuses in some countries and that the most vulnerable workers, those with low skills and those sought for work in low-paying sectors are among the most susceptible to abuse,

Welcoming the efforts by a network of grassroots groups, a number of non-governmental organisations and many farm labourer organisations to improve the conditions faced by migrant workers,

Emphasising that sending countries have an obligation to protect and promote the interests of their citizens who are seeking work or already working in other countries, to give them appropriate training and education and to apprise them of their rights and of the obligations of the receiving countries,

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, which call on all States to guarantee the safeguarding of the human rights of all migrant workers, as well as the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995,

Child labour

Aware that the issue of exploitative forms of child labour has become a priority for many governments,

Recognising that exploitative child labour is closely linked to poverty and that countries with the highest illiteracy rates, lowest school enrolment rates and serious nutritional deficiencies are in general those that have the highest proportion of children working in exploitative situations,

Also recognising that child labour is both a human rights and a development issue,

Acknowledging that child labour requires a response from a broad alliance of national and international organisations, both public and private,

Taking into consideration the efforts made by the international community and national governments to tackle the child labour problem through the Plans of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990 and the Conference on Education for All held in Jomtien in 1991, as well as through the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development in 1995,

Recalling that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989 and ratified by 191 States, recognises the child's right to be protected from "economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development" (article 32),

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference:

1. *Recommends* that, in the global economy, a strict balance be observed between the interests of the major economic powers and the rights of other States, thus ensuring equity for all and guaranteeing stability;

2. *Reaffirms* the goal of providing opportunities for fairly remunerated and freely chosen work for all those seeking it;

3. *Urges* that, in setting labour standards, account be taken of the economic and social situation of developing countries, to enable them to participate actively in international trade and enjoy free access to markets;

4. *Also urges* that the same rules of international law be observed by and applied to all countries without distinction;

5. *Strongly recommends* that multilateral aid and financing agencies adopt effective approaches and devise mechanisms for assisting developing countries through special programmes aimed at their recovery and genuine development, thus enabling them to improve their basic infrastructure and agricultural and industrial production both quantitatively and qualitatively;

6. *Calls on* the developed countries and international organisations to support local capacity-building in developing countries in order to improve the quality of their human resources and increase employment opportunities;

7. *Urges* the developed countries to encourage their private sectors to invest capital in the developing countries in order to create more employment opportunities, and *calls on* the governments of developing countries to pursue policies conducive to foreign direct investment;

8. *Recommends* that measures be taken at the international level to reinforce inter-State economic relations and openness in the context of economic globalisation and to lessen inequalities and poverty worldwide;

Employment

9. *Calls on* States to develop a wide range of labour market adjustment measures designed primarily to address the dislocation effects of structural economic change, including those arising from international trade;

10. *Also calls on* States to undertake active measures such as job assistance, skill acquisition and mobility incentives, wage subsidies, earnings supplements and other employment incentive schemes as well as passive measures such as early retirement incentives, unemployment or social assistance and unemployment insurance;

11. *Stresses* that all countries must be expected and allowed to accept responsibility for their own development, and that lending institutions must avoid conditions which would erode vital services such as education and health or reduce employment, since this will allow the economic and social context of each country to be fully reflected in its development strategy, thus safeguarding the political and social sustainability of recovery programmes;

12. *Recognises* that the pace of trade liberalisation must be adapted to national conditions so as to allow time for industrial development and minimise social costs;

13. *Urges* parliaments and governments to refrain from using labour standards for purposes other than the protection of workers, and to oppose attempts to impair the comparative advantage of the developing countries resulting from lower wages;

14. *Recommends* giving priority to programmes encouraging small and medium businesses and to enhancing the productivity of the informal sector by improving infrastructure, increasing the availability of credit including micro-credit, minimising interest rates, expanding education and training, ensuring equitable redistribution of resources and improving advisory services and the supply of information; and *stresses* that such programmes must focus on the elimination of poverty and unemployment;

15. *Urges* parliaments and governments to eliminate any form of discrimination in employment including on grounds of sex, age, family responsibilities, civil status, social and ethnic origin, and religion, so as to guarantee equal opportunities in access to jobs and ensure full recognition for the handicapped and the exercise of their rights and guarantees so that they may enjoy real equality in terms of employment and treatment;

Migrant workers

16. *Calls on* States to affirm that migrant workers are entitled to the protection of their human rights, regardless of their legal status;

17. *Also calls on* States to undertake educational and other programmes to ensure that migrant workers are aware of their rights within the host country and to promote their integration in the host society;

18. *Urges* States to work in co-operation to eliminate maltreatment of migrant workers and abuses of their human rights;

19. *Calls on* the United Nations General Assembly to reopen negotiations to clarify the protection of all migrant workers in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families;

Child labour

20. *Calls on* States to recognise the right of all children, both boys and girls, to relevant basic education, to protection from any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with education, in order to respect their development and improve their adult employment opportunities, thus enhancing their own and their countries' economic future;

21. *Also calls on* States to reduce child labour through multi-faceted development strategies, through compulsory primary education for boys and girls, including substantial investment in such education; enhanced participation of women in economic development; generation of alternative sources or income through private sector development, and greater involvement of civil society and local government; in order to offer viable economic alternatives to poor families which depend on the contribution of child labour for their very survival;

22. *Recommends* that legislation banning any form of child abduction or exploitation and the use of child labour in hazardous work, and in particular protecting children against sexual exploitation, forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery involving children, be adopted as rapidly as possible and effectively applied by at least the countries represented in the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

23. *Calls on* States to provide wider legislative protection, including national child labour laws which comply with the spirit and letter of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 7) and of relevant ILO conventions, in particular to ensure that all children are registered at birth and to provide employers and labour inspectors with evidence of every child's age.

ANNEX III

[Original: English and French]

THE NEED TO ELIMINATE ALL COMMERCIAL AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM LAWS TO PROHIBIT THIS INDEFENSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 15 September 1997)

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Deeply concerned that many children throughout the world continue to suffer abuses of their human rights as a result of exploitative child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and poverty,

Recognising that the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance,

Noting that the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, with 191 ratifications, is the most widely ratified international human rights instrument,

Recalling the 1959 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing this Declaration in the 1990s, as well as other relevant UN decisions, including the resolution on the rights of the child adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in April 1997,

Welcoming the adoption by the 1996 Stockholm World Congress of a Declaration and Agenda for Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,

Also welcoming the contribution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to UN action and particularly its Recommendation no. 1336/1997 inviting European States to ensure compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and outlining a European policy for the implementation of this Convention,

Further welcoming the work under way within the UN to draft an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child with the aim of strengthening mechanisms to help combat child prostitution, child pornography and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children as a matter of urgency,

1. *Urges* those countries which have not yet ratified the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to do so as a matter of priority;

2. *Also urges* those countries which have ratified the Convention to implement fully their obligations under it and to withdraw any reservations pertaining thereto;

3. *Encourages* countries to co-operate with, and assist the operations of, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, other UN bodies or agencies, as well as non-governmental organisations, which have specific responsibilities for the protection of children's rights;

4. *Calls on* its members to ensure that the goals and targets of the World Declaration and Plan of Action on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children, are met within the agreed ten-year time frame;

5. *Urges* all UN Member States to expedite work under way within the United Nations to draft an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

6. *Urges* all countries to develop national action plans and strengthen intersectoral co-ordination in order to fully implement the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

7. *Recommends* that all countries allocate sufficient funds for prevention and education campaigns aimed at combating child prostitution and sexual abuse;

8. *Urges* all countries to introduce or strengthen legislation to protect children and to prohibit the commercial sexual exploitation of children, which targets in particular the service providers, customers or intermediaries in child prostitution, child trafficking and child pornography, as well as the distribution of child pornography via electronic means such as the Internet;

9. *Strongly recommends* that all countries establish or strengthen networks for co-operation between national and international law enforcement authorities, in order to counter the increasingly transnational nature of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ANNEX IV

[Original: English and French]

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY

Declaration adopted without a vote* by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st session (Cairo, 16 September 1997)

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Reaffirming the Inter-Parliamentary Union's commitment to peace and development and *convinced* that the strengthening of the democratisation process and representative institutions will greatly contribute to attaining this goal,

Reaffirming also the calling and commitment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promoting democracy and the establishment of pluralistic systems of representative government in the world, and *wishing* to strengthen its sustained and multiform action in this field,

Recalling that each State has the sovereign right, freely to choose and develop, in accordance with the will of its people, its own political, social, economic and cultural systems without interference by other States in strict conformity with the United Nations Charter,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on 10 December 1948, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted on 16 December 1966, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted on 21 December 1965 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women adopted on 18 December 1979,

Recalling further the *Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections* which it adopted in March 1994 and in which it confirmed that in any State the authority of the government can derive only from the will of the people as expressed in genuine, free and fair elections,

Referring to the *Agenda for Democratisation* presented on 20 December 1996 by the UN Secretary-General to the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Adopts the following **Universal Declaration on Democracy** and *urges* Governments and Parliaments throughout the world to be guided by its content:

FIRST PART - THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

1. Democracy is a universally recognised ideal as well as a goal, which is based on common values shared by peoples throughout the world community irrespective of cultural, political, social and economic differences. It is thus a basic right of citizenship to be exercised under conditions of freedom, equality, transparency and responsibility, with due respect for the plurality of views, and in the interest of the polity.

2. Democracy is both an ideal to be pursued and a mode of government to be applied according to modalities which reflect the diversity of experiences and cultural particularities without derogating from internationally recognised principles, norms and standards. It is thus a constantly perfected and always perfectible state or condition whose progress will depend upon a variety of political, social, economic, and cultural factors.

3. As an ideal, democracy aims essentially to preserve and promote the dignity and fundamental rights of the individual, to achieve social justice, foster the economic and social development of the community, strengthen the cohesion of society and enhance national tranquillity, as well as to create a climate that is favourable for international peace. As a form of government, democracy is the best way of achieving these objectives; it is also the only political system that has the capacity for self-correction.

4. The achievement of democracy presupposes a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society in which they work in equality and complementarity, drawing mutual enrichment from their differences.

5. A state of democracy ensures that the processes by which power is acceded to, wielded and alternates allow for free political competition and are the product of open, free and non-discriminatory participation by the people, exercised in accordance with the rule of law, in both letter and spirit.

6. Democracy is inseparable from the rights set forth in the international instruments recalled in the preamble. These rights must therefore be applied effectively and their proper exercise must be matched with individual and collective responsibilities.

7. Democracy is founded on the primacy of the law and the exercise of human rights. In a democratic State, no one is above the law and all are equal before the law.

8. Peace and economic, social and cultural development are both conditions for and fruits of democracy. There is thus interdependence between peace, development, respect for and observance of the rule of law and human rights.

SECOND PART - THE ELEMENTS AND EXERCISE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

9. Democracy is based on the existence of well-structured and well-functioning institutions, as well as on a body of standards and rules and on the will of society as a whole, fully conversant with its rights and responsibilities.

10. It is for democratic institutions to mediate tensions and maintain equilibrium between the competing claims of diversity and uniformity, individuality and collectivity, in order to enhance social cohesion and solidarity.

11. Democracy is founded on the right of everyone to take part in the management of public affairs; it therefore requires the existence of representative institutions at all levels and, in particular, a Parliament in which all components of society are represented and which has the requisite

powers and means to express the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action.

12. The key element in the exercise of democracy is the holding of free and fair elections at regular intervals enabling the people's will to be expressed. These elections must be held on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage so that all voters can choose their representatives in conditions of equality, openness and transparency that stimulate political competition. To that end, civil and political rights are essential, and more particularly among them, the rights to vote and to be elected, the rights to freedom of expression and assembly, access to information and the right to organise political parties and carry out political activities. Party organisation, activities, finances, funding and ethics must be properly regulated in an impartial manner in order to ensure the integrity of the democratic processes.

13. It is an essential function of the State to ensure the enjoyment of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights to its citizens. Democracy thus goes hand in hand with an effective, honest and transparent government, freely chosen and accountable for its management of public affairs.

14. Public accountability, which is essential to democracy, applies to all those who hold public authority, whether elected or non-elected, and to all bodies of public authority without exception. Accountability entails a public right of access to information about the activities of government, the right to petition government and to seek redress through impartial administrative and judicial mechanisms.

15. Public life as a whole must be stamped by a sense of ethics and by transparency, and appropriate norms and procedures must be established to uphold them.

16. Individual participation in democratic processes and public life at all levels must be regulated fairly and impartially and must avoid any discrimination, as well as the risk of intimidation by State and non-State actors.

17. Judicial institutions and independent, impartial and effective oversight mechanisms are the guarantors for the rule of law on which democracy is founded. In order for these institutions and mechanisms fully to ensure respect for the rules, improve the fairness of the processes and redress injustices, there must be access by all to administrative and judicial remedies on the basis of equality as well as respect for administrative and judicial decisions both by the organs of the State and representatives of public authority and by each member of society.

18. While the existence of an active civil society is an essential element of democracy, the capacity and willingness of individuals to participate in democratic processes and make governance choices cannot be taken for granted. It is therefore necessary to develop conditions conducive to the genuine exercise of participatory rights, while also eliminating obstacles that prevent, hinder or inhibit this exercise. It is therefore indispensable to ensure the permanent enhancement of, *inter alia*, equality, transparency and education and to remove obstacles such as ignorance, intolerance, apathy, the lack of genuine choices and alternatives and the absence of measures designed to redress imbalances or discrimination of a social, cultural, religious and racial nature, or for reasons of gender.

19. A sustained state of democracy thus requires a democratic climate and culture constantly nurtured and reinforced by education and other vehicles of culture and information. Hence, a democratic society must be committed to education in the broadest sense of the term, and more particularly civic education and the shaping of a responsible citizenry.

20. Democratic processes are fostered by a favourable economic environment; therefore, in its overall effort for development, society must be committed to satisfying the basic economic needs of the most disadvantaged, thus ensuring their full integration in the democratic process.

21. The state of democracy presupposes freedom of opinion and expression; this right implies freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

22. The institutions and processes of democracy must accommodate the participation of all people in homogeneous as well as heterogeneous societies in order to safeguard diversity, pluralism and the right to be different in a climate of tolerance.

23. Democratic institutions and processes must also foster decentralised local and regional government and administration, which is a right and a necessity, and which makes it possible to broaden the base of public participation.

THIRD PART - THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF DEMOCRACY

24. Democracy must also be recognised as an international principle, applicable to international organisations and to States in their international relations. The principle of international democracy does not only mean equal or fair representation of States; it also extends to the economic rights and duties of States.

25. The principles of democracy must be applied to the international management of issues of global interest and the common heritage of humankind, in particular the human environment.

26. To preserve international democracy, States must ensure that their conduct conforms to international law, refrain from the use or threat of force and from any conduct that endangers or violates the sovereignty and political or territorial integrity of other States, and take steps to resolve their differences by peaceful means.

27. A democracy should support democratic principles in international relations. In that respect, democracies must refrain from undemocratic conduct, express solidarity with democratic governments and non-State actors like non-governmental organisations which work for democracy and human rights, and extend solidarity to those who are victims of human rights violations at the hands of undemocratic régimes. In order to strengthen international criminal justice, democracies must reject impunity for international crimes and serious violations of fundamental human rights and support the establishment of a permanent international criminal court.

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* After the Declaration was adopted, the delegation of China expressed reservations to the text.

At present, 137 national parliaments are members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Representatives from the parliaments of the following 128 countries took part in the work of the Cairo Conference: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

ANNEX V

[Original: English and French]

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolution adopted without a vote* by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st session (Cairo, 16 September 1997)

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948,

Stressing that the Declaration sets forth « *a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance* »,

Welcoming the fact that over the years the Declaration has provided both inspiration and substance for the development of a corpus of human rights principles and standards, as enshrined particularly in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in regional human rights instruments and national legislation,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by consensus in 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, reaffirmed the international community's commitment to these human rights principles and standards and their universal and indivisible character,

Noting with deep concern that the goals set half a century ago are nonetheless still distant since human rights standards are not fully and universally respected and human rights and fundamental freedoms continue to be violated in all parts of the world,

Aware of the particular duty of Parliaments and their members, as guardians of human rights, to defend and promote human rights and so contribute to the building of a world in which human beings enjoy the entire spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights,

Recalling the many resolutions adopted in recent years by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on issues of human rights, recommending specific action by governments and parliaments to uphold and promote human rights in various areas, including in particular :

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* After the Resolution was adopted, the delegations of Indonesia and Singapore expressed reservations to the text.

- « *Strengthening national structures, institutions and organisations of society which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights* » (Copenhagen, 17 September 1994);

- « *The protection of minorities as a global issue and a prerequisite for stability, security and peace* » (Istanbul, 19 April 1996);

- « *Promoting greater respect and protection of human rights in general and in particular for women and children* » (Beijing, 20 September 1996);

Considering that the United Nations, in General Assembly resolution 51/88, invited States « *to review and assess the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome to achieve progress in this area, to undertake additional efforts and to develop programmes of education and information, with a view to disseminating the text of the Declaration and arriving at a better understanding of the universal message* »,

1. *Firmly believes* that all States have a duty to seek, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and *reaffirms* that human rights are a matter of legitimate international concern since respect for them constitutes a pillar of international order;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and *recommends* that the parliamentary community mark its fiftieth anniversary in 1998 with a series of activities in support of the defence and promotion of human rights;

3. *Calls on* all Parliaments and their members to take action at the national level to ensure:

(i) That international and regional human rights treaties are ratified or acceded to promptly by their countries, in case they have not already done so, and that reservations are withdrawn whenever they conflict with the object and purpose of the treaty;

(ii) That enabling legislation is enacted and that the provisions of national laws and regulations are harmonised with the norms and standards contained in these instruments with a view to their full implementation;

(iii) That full co-operation and adequate information is offered to international and regional human rights bodies, including international criminal courts, and that individual complaints procedures provided for in international human rights treaties are accepted;

(iv) That independent national institutions for human rights, including the office of an Ombudsman or equivalent institution, together with parliamentary bodies overseeing human rights issues, are established or activated to operate in keeping with human rights norms;

(v) That non-governmental organisations working for the promotion and protection of human rights receive the necessary support and protection;

(vi) That the necessary budgetary provisions are made for action to promote and protect human rights, with special reference to human rights education;

4. *Invites* all Parliaments to hold a special sitting on or close to 10 December 1998, with the support from national parliamentary human rights bodies, to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to discuss the protection and promotion of human rights;

5. *Invites also* all Parliaments to encourage greater participation by the youth in national events to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

6. *Calls upon* Parliaments and their members to extend support and co-operation at the international level to the work of the United Nations and, in particular, the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, as well as to regional human rights bodies;

7. *Recommends* that the question of respect for human rights be addressed on the occasion of the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Moscow and, to that end, *urges* the members of the IPU to present reports on action they have taken to follow up this resolution, well in advance of that Conference;

8. *Decides* in favour of the IPU being represented, in a manner to be decided upon in due time, at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which will take place during the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1998, and for an IPU contribution to be prepared for the celebrations in the form of information on parliamentary mechanisms to promote and protect human rights world-wide;

9. *Requests* the Secretary General to pursue discussions on activities to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the United Nations and inter-parliamentary assemblies and organisations and to report to the Council at its 162nd session on further measures the Union may take.